Mubarak: Netanyahu Must Be Given a Chance

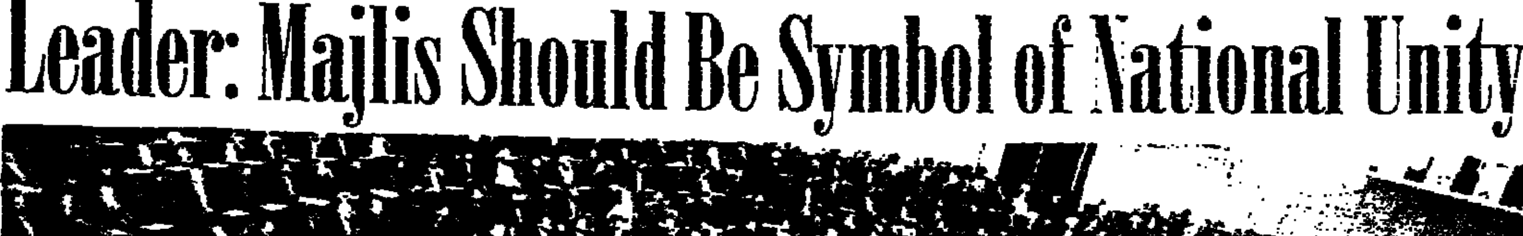
CAIRO (AFP) — Israel's new right-wing Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu must be given a chance to demonstrate his intentions towards the peace process, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said.

"The new Israeli government must be given the opportunity to clarify its viewpoints and intentions towards the peace process without rush," Mubarak said, quoted by the weekly *Akhbar al-Youm* Saturday.

"Egypt insists on achieving a just and global peace in the region and welcomes the concern Netanyahu has shown in supporting the peace process," Mubarak said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)





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Germany Reduces Aid to Israel

BONN (AFP) — Germany announced Saturday it was reducing aid to Israel and boosting assistance for the Palestinians and development projects in Jordan.

The aim is to back the Middle East peace process, a spokesman for the Development Ministry told AFP.

He said that since 1968, Israel has received 140 million marks ($93 million) in financial aid from Germany but that for next year, an interim plan has been negotiated.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Leader: Majlis Should Be Symbol of National Unity



Abbas Takin — Tehran Times

TEHRAN (IRNA) — The Fifth Majlis was officially inaugurated Saturday morning with a message of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in which he stressed that the Majlis should concentrate on the goals, aspirations and the exalted values of Islam.

"Under the present conditions of the country that construction activities are going ahead with full force and greater dynamism, greater attention should be given to these ideals and aspirations," said the Leader.

The Leader further in his message referring to the side-effects of construction efforts, said that certain naive and simple-minded people might neglect the factor of faith and founding principles of the system and they may be overtaken by this wrong assumption that by entering the advanced phases of construction, the era of these sacred slogans, aspirations and values has ended.

This wrong assumption together with some financial and personal motivations prompt these people to overlook the values and deny the connection existing between a tree's trunk and branches with its root. To prevent such a phenomenon, the Leader said the elite of the nation should stress on the fundmental role of the values of Islam and revolution in all their plannings.

The Suprme Leader further pointed out that the Islamic Republic has rescued Iran from the deprivations of the Shah's time and reconstructed it. Any step towards scientific, industrial and economic progress and any steps to rehabilitate the country is a

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Hezbollah Activists Attack Israeli Patrol

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AFP) — Hezbollah activists fired automatic weapons and rockets Saturday at an Israeli patrol in the South Lebanon "security zone" occupied by the Zionist state, Lebanese security officials said.

A Hezbollah spokesman in Beirut said the attack at Bir Kallah on the edge of the zone left "several victims" among the soldiers without specifying if they were dead or wounded.

It targetted a "foot patrol of Zionist soldiers and certainly caused casualties in its ranks," the spokesman said.

But security services had no immediate reports of casualties.

Hezbollah has stepped up the pace of its attacks on Israeli soldiers in the occupied zone since the start of the week, carrying them out at a rate of one a day.

Israeli jets fired missiles at Lebanon in a dawn raid Friday and wounded many civilians.

Chechens Capture 26 Russian Troops in Clash

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechens captured 26 Russian troops when they attacked federal units in the Nozhai Yurt district of southeastern Chechnya Saturday in breach of a cease-fire, Russian officials said.

Officials in the state commission set up for talks with the Chechens told Interfax news agency that 26 Interior Ministry troops were captured and two armored personnel carriers destroyed along with an anti-aircraft system in the fighting near Shuani village.

The Russian military on Saturday accused the Chechens of violating a cease-fire only hours after it was supposed to take effect and the breakaway republic appeared to be sliding back into war.

A spokesman for the Russian command, quoted by Interfax news agency, said a large number of separatists tried to attack units of a motorized rifle brigade from the rear in Shuani village, in Nozhai Yurt district.

"The (Russian) soldiers had to open fire on the assailants. There were no reports about losses. A firefight is now going on at the motorized rifle brigade's positions," the spokesman said.

In an accord signed in the Kremlin Monday President Boris Yeltsin and Chechen leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev had agreed that a cease-fire would take effect from midnight (2000 GMT) Friday.

But shortly before the cease-fire deadline Russian troops and Chechens clashed in the southeastern town of Shali and further peace talks set for Saturday in the neighboring Russian republic of Dagestan were postponed indefinitely.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Documents Center to Revive the History of Islamic Revolution Through 15th Khordad Quarterly



HUSSEINIAN

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Founded in 1981, the Islamic Revolution's Documents Center (IRDC) is to collect, computerize and publish facts about the history of the Islamic Revolution, head of the center, Hojjatoleslam Ruhollah Husseinian told the *Tehran Times*.

Pursuant to an order by the father of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini, the center was established to prevent any distortion of facts about the Constitutional Movement of Iran.

As the first step, Husseinian said, the institute gathered hundreds of thousands of documents from state-run organizations and individuals.

In the next step the center is going to classify and computerize the documents in a bid to prepare an accessible source for the researchers and those interested in the Islamic Revolution. He projected that a computerized source would be ready by the end of the year.

To fully accomplish the task, the institute has recorded valuable memories of cultural and political personalities as well as common people who were more or less involved in the process of the Islamic Revolution, Hojjatoleslam Husseinian noted.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Deve Gowda Sworn In as India's Prime Minister

NEW DELHI (AFP) — H.D. Deve Gowda was sworn in as India's 11th prime minister on Saturday at the head of a coalition government known as the United Front.

Deve Gowda, 63, took the oath of office from President Shankar Dayal Sharma at a 30-minute ceremony televised live from the downtown presidential palace.

He replaced Atal Bihari Vajpayee, 69, whose Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) government relinquished power on Tuesday after failing to mus-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

30 Troops Killed in Fighting Near Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — Five Afghan government soldiers and 25 Taleban fighters were killed Saturday in fighting southeast of Kabul following a major offensive by the Islamic militia, the Defense ministry here said.

A 600-man Taleban force mounted the attacks in the early hours in different sectors of Mosa Ainak district in Logar Province, about 44 miles from here, the ministry said in a statement.

A government hill post was captured by the Talehan in the initial thrust, but they were pushed back later, the statement said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Condolences and Holiday Notice

On the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the late Imam Khomeini's heart-rending departure, the *Tehran Times* staff extend their condolences to Muslims all over the world. The *Tehran Times* daily will not be published from Jun. 3-4, 1996.

TEHRAN TIMES

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In The Name of Allah

And nought of the reckoning of their (deeds) shall be against those who guard (against evil), but (theirs) is only to remind, haply they may guard.

(HOLY QORAN) (6:69)

OPINION

Formation of Muslim Bloc, Only Alternative to Capitulation to Tel-Aviv

The leader of the Likud Party, Benjamin Netanyahu, who will be the Prime Minister of the Zionist regime for the next four years, has inherited an Israel with an army vastly superior in size and combat readiness to the Arab armies that fought 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars.

Taking into account that the Likud Party is expansionist by nature, the Muslim countries in the Middle East will have hard days ahead if they remain divided among themselves.

Given the fact that the bipolar world order has gone and there is no Soviet Union to stand by the Arabs in case of another aggression by Israel, the Muslim countries of the Middle East must bridge the gap among themselves and rely on their unity to be able to withstand any probable Israeli aggression.

Moreover, the Ankara-Tel Aviv axis today is a serious threat to Syria, Egypt, Iran and other Muslim countries of the region.

The Muslim countries are encircled by hostile forces. The enemies of the Muslims receive unconditional material and moral support from the White House.

Unfortunately some of the Muslim countries of the region have moved too close to the U.S. that it is not easy for them to follow an independent foreign policy free from the U.S. influence.

Turkey is now virtually in the U.S.-Israeli camp. Iran, Saudi Arabia and Egypt are the key Muslim countries in the Middle East. In the first instance, the Tehran-Riyadh-Cairo axis should be formed and strengthened to pave the way for a dynamic cooperation among all Muslim countries in the region.

The three countries should spare no effort to cooperate on the minimum possible common areas of interests to prepare a ground for accommodation and cooperation in larger areas.

If Tehran, Cairo and Riyadh expand trilateral cooperation, without any doubt the smaller countries of the region will follow suit.

Iran is a strategic ally of Syria. Hence, rapprochement between Tehran, Cairo and Riyadh will be in effect tantamount to a rapprochement between Damascus, Riyadh and Cairo which practically means the formation of a powerful Muslim bloc.

In order to materialize this great dream, Tehran, Riyadh, Cairo and Damascus should sacrifice certain limited national interests for the sake of larger regional interests.

Iranian Envoy Meets Indonesian Minister

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Iran's Ambassador to Jakarta, Mohsen Nabavi, in a meeting Friday in Jakarta with Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas, reviewed expansion of mutual relations and discussed the latest international developments.

Referring to Tehran-Jakarta cooperation in international organizations including the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the two officials underlined the need to continue such collaboration.

Alatas stated that the opening of the historical Silk Road was significant, adding that Indonesian traders should take advantage of this new route to expand commercial relations with the Central Asian states.



Abbas Taklu — Tehran Times

Iran Should Present a Successful Model of Sovereignty of Islam

TEHRAN (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, here Saturday morning at the opening ceremony of the fifth Majlis, urged deputies to make joint efforts to build an Islamic Iran and present the world with a successful model of sovereignty of Islam and Islamic Revolution.

Addressing 247 deputies and a number of senior officials present at the ceremony, the president stressed that in the past years, the Islamic Republic of Iran through its actions has proven that it does not fear U.S. plots and that it is determined to continue to tread on its clear path.

The president reiterated that the unrests of the early years of the Revolution, eight years of the Iraqi-imposed war, the economic sanctions and conspiracies of the past several years to isolate the Islamic Republic were all futile and today the Revolution is stronger and more consolidated than ever.

President Rafsanjani added that the enemies should not be ignored and the Iranian nation must be prepared to stand up to their continued plots and conspiracies. Majlis should be sensitive in this respect, he told the deputies.

As to economic situation in the country, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran, by enjoying various great potentials, should go ahead with its development project and make more progress.

Underlining the need to create coordination between the Majlis and the government, the president said that bills on eradication of poverty, providing insurance coverage for all, and creating an oil-free economy will be submitted to the Majlis soon. The approval of such motions will solve great part of problems existing in the country, concluded the president.

Zagreb to Host Seminar on Imam Khomeini

ZAGREB (IRNA) — A seminar on the life and thoughts of the father of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini, is to be held in the Grand Mosque of Zagreb with the participation of Muslim scholars and foreign diplomats in the Croatian capital on Sunday (today).

Cultural Advisor of Iran in Zagreb, Ali Madadi, told IRNA Friday that the seminar would focus mainly on the political thoughts of Imam Khomeini and its development during the years of his struggle as well as his leadership after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Egyptian Paper: Improvement in Egypt-Iran Ties

ATHENS (IRNA) — Egypt-Iran relations are witnessing important developments and serious steps have been taken to normalize bilateral ties in order to confront regional and international challenges and pressures, reported Egyptian Islamic newspaper *Al-Shaab*.

The bi-weekly paper, quoting Arab circles in Cairo, said Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa following his visit to Turkey last month presented a report to the political leadership in Cairo calling for improvement in Egypt-Iran relations.

In his report, Moussa argued that the Cairo-Tehran axis would be a step in reestablishing the balance in the region in the face of new alliances such as the Israeli-Turkish military accord.

Moussa's talks in Ankara, said the report, was not successful in removing Egyptian doubts about the Israeli-Turkish agreement.

International pressure, particularly by the United States, and the position of some factions in Cairo and Tehran have till now impeded a rapprochement between the two major Muslim states, noted *Al-Shaab*.

However, positive steps have been taken by both sides to remove the hurdles.

Egypt has agreed to revive the committee of the Shia-Sunni religious dialog and allowed Iranian businessmen to establish yarn factories in Tanta and Damanhur.

On its side, Iran has given Egyptian firms the license to build eight sugar factories in Ahwaz.

Recent statements by Egyptian and Iranian officials point out to a desire by both countries to normalize and strengthen bilateral relations in all sectors, especially politicial and economic ties.

IRNA Successful in Promoting NANAP Objectives

ABUJA, Nigeria (IRNA) — IRNA's Managing Director Fereidoun Vardinejad here Wednesday had meetings with heads of delegations of Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP) on the sidelines of the assembly of NANAP ministers of culture and information.

Nigerian Chairman of the assembly Onona Goro appreciated the efforts taken by IRNA as periodic head of NANAP for promoting its goals, and said mutual cooperation between IRNA and Nigerian news agency could also promote Afro-Asian cooperation of the news agencies.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian Minister of Information Haji Harmoko told IRNA's managing director that Iran and Indonesi[a] could promote their cooperatio[n] in news exchange withi[n] NANAP and OANA that pro[-] motes news services betwee[n] Asia and the Oceania.

IRNA's managing directo[r] extended an invitation to Har[-] moko on behalf of the Irania[n] Minister of Culture and Islami[c] Guidance, Mostafa Mirsalim, [to] visit Tehran.

Minister of Culture and Infor[-] mation of the Democratic Pe[o-] ple's Republic of Korea Ki[m] Chung Myong who is also chai[r-] man of Cominac ministers in h[is] meeting with Vardinejad appr[e-] ciated the efforts of NANAP a[nd] said the Third World news age[n-] cies would do well to broad[en] cooperation between themselv[es] as a means for neutralizing th[e] flow of biased news repor[ts] against the Third World.

Kim Chung Myong said t[hat] U.S. imperialism is determin[ed] to keep the independent Thi[rd] World countries distanced fr[om] each other, and that as such t[he] Third World nations would [do] well to maintain their collecti[ve] unity also in the area of pub[lic] information systems.

Tourism College to Be Set Up in Iran

SHAHR-E KURD, Charmahal-Bakhtiari Province (IRAN) — A tourism college will be set up in Meigoun, outskirts of Tehran, by the end of September, managing director of the Iranian Tourism Organization (ITO) disclosed here Saturday.

Ali Bashiribod added that in the first phase of the project, about 100 students, who will complete 90 hours of training in the fields pertaining to recreation and the provision of accommodations, will be admitted to the institute.

Meanwhile, the official in charge of development projects at the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry, B. Farahangpour, said that some Rls.10 billion are expected to be spent by the ministry till the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 1997), for construction of five visual arts schools in Tehran, Yazd, Isfahan, Karaj and Hamedan.

Imports Via Bazargan Down by 24%

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Goods imported via the Bazargan border declined by 24 percent from March 20 to May 20, 1996, as compared to the corresponding period last year, it was reported in Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan, Saturday morning.

Akbar Jabbari, who heads the province's transport organization and terminals, added that some 61,000 tons of goods were imported into the country through the Bazargan Customs during the perioed while the figure was 80,736 tons last year, IRNA reported.

Some 39,000 tons of agricultural products, dried fruits, clothing and raw material were also exported at the said period from this border point to different countries, he noted.

Russia to Increase Gas Extraction

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Russia will extract 572 billion cubic metres of gas in 1996, or 2.2 percent higher than 1995, a Gazprom gas monopoly top official told a meeting of shareholders today, as quoted by an IRNA-ITAR-TASS dispatch.

Over five months of 1996, Gazprom has produced 3.3 billion cubic metres of gas more than in the same period of 1995, Rem Vyakhirev, who chairs the state-run holding, said.

Also, the company plans to boost oil and gas condensate production and increase the output of its processing plants this year.

Strong ties with foreign companies have enabled Gazprom to expand gas imports, build new facilities, and introduce energy-saving and cost-efficient production plans, Vyakhirev said.

Gazprom, which has gained strong grounds in Germany as gas exporter, seems to have good prospects on southern European markets.

Slovakia, Italy, Slovenia and Hungary have already accepted Gazprom's proposal to build pipelines on their territory which will channel Russian gas to other countries of the region.

New Stage in Tehran-Baku Cooperation Commences

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Azeri Foreign Minister Hassan Hassanov said that participation of an Iranian oil company in the Shah Deniz oil project in the Caspian Sea ushers a new stage in Tehran-Baku ties.

A contract alloting 10 percent share in the exploitation of the Shah Deniz Oil Field to the Iranian Oil Industries and Engineering Company (OIEC) was signed in Baku in May, IRNA reported.

The Shah Deniz Oil Field, 80 kms southeast of Baku, has been assessed to have reserves of more than 100 million tons of crude and 400,000 million cubic meters of natural gas.

Making the remark Friday in a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to Baku, Ali Reza Bigdeli, Hassanov also stressed the importance of the Mashhad-Sarakh-Tajan railway which was inaugurated on May 13.

The two sides also discussed the agreements reached by the two countries during the recent visit to Mashhad, in northeast Iran, of Azeri President Gajdar Aliev. It was decided that talks would start within a month for establishing the mechanism for implementing the accords.

Egyptian Chamber of Commerce Shuns Israel

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Egyptian Federation of Chambers of Commerce (EFCC) has denied rumors that Egypt was party to a joint chamber of commerce with the Zionist state, *Al-Ahram* weekly reported.

"There has not been, and there will not be, any cooperation between Israel and the EFCC," Mahmoud al-Arabi told the state-run Egyptian English-language weekly peper.

Al-Arabi said he was surpirzed to receive an invitation from the embassy of the Zionist state in Cairo requesting that the EFCC attend the inauguration of a joint Israeli-Egyptian chamber of commerce in Tel Aviv.

"The EFCC, which represents nearly three million Egyptian businessmen, will not accept any commercial cooperation with Israel unless it terminates its terrorist attacks against the Arabs," stressed Al-Arabi.

The EFCC is not alone in holding this position, he said. The Egyptian Federation of Industries shares the same attitude with regard to cooperating with Israel.

The EFCC also warned any Egyptian chamber of commerce organization against using its name in any dealing or cooperation with the Zionist state.

At the request of the EFCC, the Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv will investigate the matter in an effort to find out which party involved the EFCC in this situation.

"Secret Talks" to End British Beef Crisis

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Officials from Britain and the European Commission were reported Friday to have begun detailed work on a framework for lifting the ban on UK beef products.

The initiative was said to be aimed at breaking the impasse between Britain and its 14 European partners, which has been escalated by Prime Minister John Major's policy of non-cooperation on other EU business.

The framework, according to the *Financial Times* , is expected to be the focus of next week's discussion between commission President Jacques Santer and UK ministers with a final decision on the plan expected to be taken at the EU summit in Florence.

Major has threatened to paralyse the two-day summit that starts June 21 unless an agreement is reached on a timescale for easing the worldwide ban on British beef imposed by the EU in March.

Britain is expected to launch a parallel diplomatic campaign next week led by Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind visiting European capitals to persuade member states about its claimed safety of British beef.

The *Daily Telegraph* reported indications Friday that two of the strongest opponents of easing the ban, Germany and Austria, were reconsidering their position and may be prepared to switch sides.

The last EU council vote on allowing sales of gelatine, tallow and semen was defeated two weeks ago when member states were left divided over what has become a bitterly controversial issue.

New Indian Government to Continue Economic Reforms

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has said that his government will continue the economic reforms initiated by the Congress government in 1991, IRNA reported.

Addressing press persons soon after being sworn in as India's 12th prime minister yesterday, Gowda said "I will continue to stand by reforms authored by former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao".

Gowda said that his coalition United Front (UF) government will also follow the foreign policy of the Congress government.

He, however, admitted the differences among various constituents of the government over the future of the economic reforms, adding that he would iron out these differences.

Communist parties, who have extended outside support to the minority UF government are vehemently critical of Rao government reforms.

UK North Sea Oil Output Falls

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Britain's oil output from the North Sea fell the seventh consecutive month in April but earnings reached a five year high due to prices averaging nearly 21 dollar per barrel.

The slow decline in oil production from more than 2.7 million barrels per day to 2.43 in April is contrary to expectations and is forecast to have continued in May, but is not seen reflecting a sustained trend, IRNA reported from London.

According to the Royal Bank of Scotland, the fall is more likely to be related to routine repair and maintenance, traditionally carried out in summer months, being spread into the earlier part of the year.

The bank's chief economist, Jeremy Peat, suggests that the decline may also reflect pauses to carry out work to ensure more oil can ultimately be extracted from existing fields, and says he expects small increases in output later this year.

On the wider prospects for the industry, he said that he did not believe that the resumption of legal Iraqi exports would in itself have a major or sustained impact on prices.

His estimate that Iraqi exports under the terms of the UN deal would probably amount to about 600,000 barrels per day, which he said should be seen in the context of the UK alone producing nearly 2.5 million bpd and an overall OPEC ceiling of 24.5 million bpd.

Oil prices in April continued their upward surge in April, averaging $20 per barrel, the highest since June 1992. After a fall to below $18 per barrel following the Iraqi deal, rates have since almost recovered.

Because of firmer prices, Britain earned an average equivalent of Pnds33.6 million per day from North Sea oil in April, compared with only Pnds28 million per day last September when production was 300,000 bpd higher but rates were close to $16 per barrel.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday, May 30.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,395	1,403	2,392	2,404
Austria	schilling	162	163	276	277
Belgium	(100)francs	5,543	5,575	9,444	9,492
Canada	dollar	1,275	1,283	2,187	2,198
Denmark	krone	295	297	502	505
France	franc	336	338	573	576
Germany	mark	1,139	1,146	1,939	1,949
Holland	guilder	1,018	1,024	1,733	1,741
Italy	(100)liras	113	114	192	193
Japan	(100)yen	1,615	1,624	2,757	2,771
Sweden	krone	258	260	440	442
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,688	2,704	4,550	4,573
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Why Do Your Baby Teeth Fall Out?



Your baby teeth fall out to make room for larger and stronger teeth. Everyone grows two sets of teeth. When you were about six months old, your first set of teeth started to come through your gums. These were your baby teeth. You had 20 of them, and they were very small.

These baby teeth did not grow larger after they came through your gums. But the rest of your body kept growing. So after a few years, your baby teeth became too small for your jaw. But in the meantime, a set of larger and stronger teeth were growing inside your gums. One by one, these larger teeth have been pushing through your gums, and your baby teeth have been falling out to make room for the new ones. The second set of teeth are called permanent teeth.

Supper Picnic

Danny and Susan were disappointed. It was a hot day and their Daddy had promised to take them for a picnic. But now they couldn't go because Daddy had been called away.

'Oh, bother,' said Danny. 'I wish our Daddy wasn't a doctor. He's always being called away when we have planned to do something exciting.'

'Never mind,' said their Mother. 'Perhaps he'll play with you when he comes back.'

'But it will be bedtime then,' said Susan.

Danny and Susan always had a rest on their beds after lunch. Today they fell asleep because it was such a hot day. When they woke up, Mother said: 'You can stay up later tonight because you both had a good sleep at rest time.'

'Hurray!' cried the children.

At six o'clock. Daddy came home and said: 'What, you two rascals not in bed yet!'

'Mummy says we can stay up to supper because we went to sleep this afternoon,' shouted the children.

'Oh,' said Daddy. 'Well, I think I have an idea. How would you like to have your picnic after all?'

'A picnic at bedtime,' said the children.

'Yes, a supper picnic,' said their Daddy.

So off they went with the picnic basket and had a lovely time. It was much more exciting then an ordinary picnic.



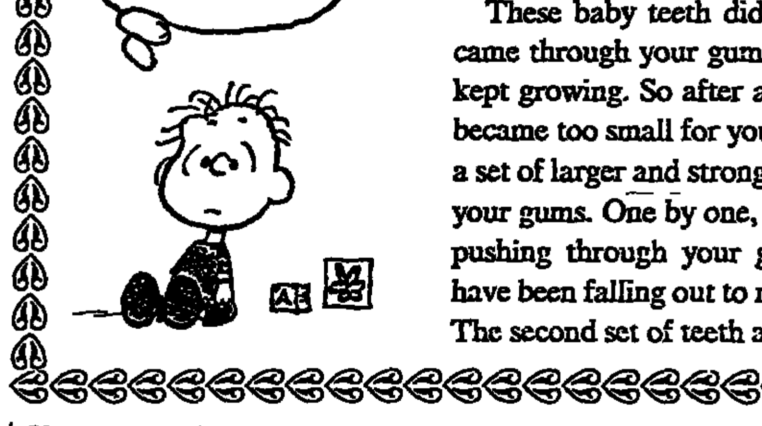
Daddy made a campfire and they cooke bacon and eggs in empty orange skins on the hot stones!

And as it grew dark the sparks from the fire chased up to the stars. And Danny and Susan had fun climbing trees and picking daisies in the dark!

Isn't it fun having a supper picnic when all the other children are in bed?' said Susan.

'Yes, I think I like having a Daddy who is a doctor after all,' said Danny.

Name the Objects All Mixed-Up in the Picture



Answers: Vase, vine, ice cream, dishpan, lamp, paintbrush, golf club.

QUIZ

1 If you are over 12 and under 20, write down your age. Then reverse the figures. That is, write them the other way round. (For example, if you are 18, you will write 81.) Take your age away from that number. Divide the result by 9.

Does 9 go into the number exactly? ....

2 Try any other age over 12 and under 20.

Does 9 go into the final number exactly? .....

1. Yes, it does.
2. Yes, it does.

Everyone knows that when you multiply 2 by 2 you get 4, and when you add 2 and 2, you also get 4. In other words, 2 times 2 gives us the same answer as 2 plus 2. And 2 is the only number that gives us the same answer.

For example
$4 \times 1\frac{1}{3} = 5\frac{1}{3}$
$4 + 1\frac{1}{3} = 5\frac{1}{3}$

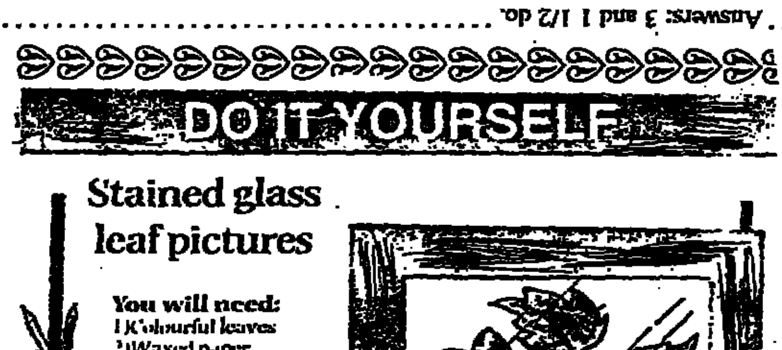
But there are two different numbers that give us the same answer. One example is given on the right. What other two numbers give us the same answer when we multiply them as they do when we add them?

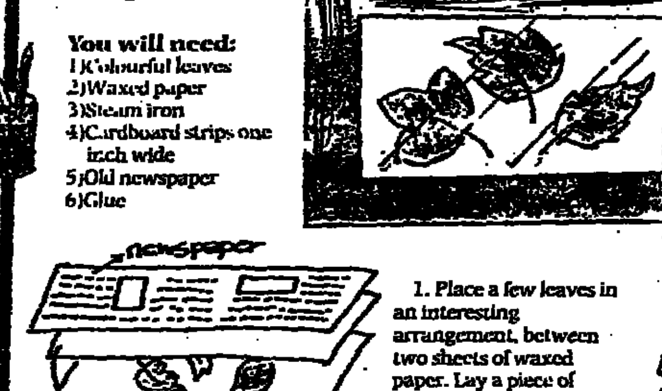
Answers: 3 and 1 1/2 do.

DO IT YOURSELF

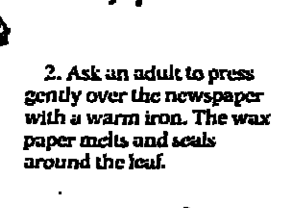
Stained glass leaf pictures

You will need:
1)Colourful leaves
2)Waxed paper
3)Steam iron
4)Cardboard strips one inch wide
5)Old newspaper
6)Glue

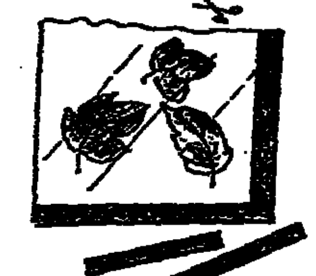




1. Place a few leaves in an interesting arrangement, between two sheets of waxed paper. Lay a piece of newspaper over the waxed paper.

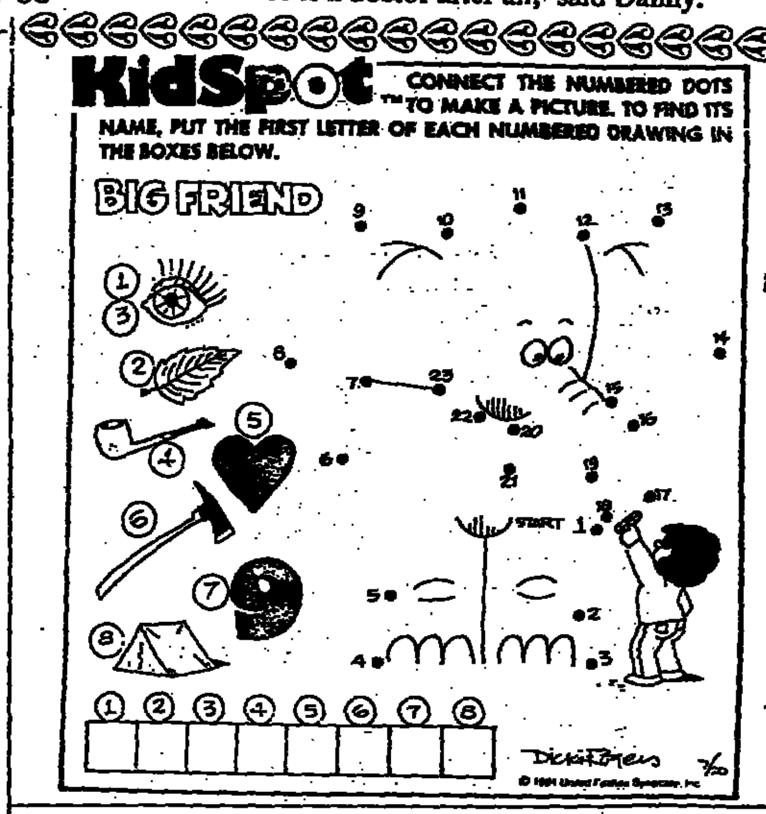


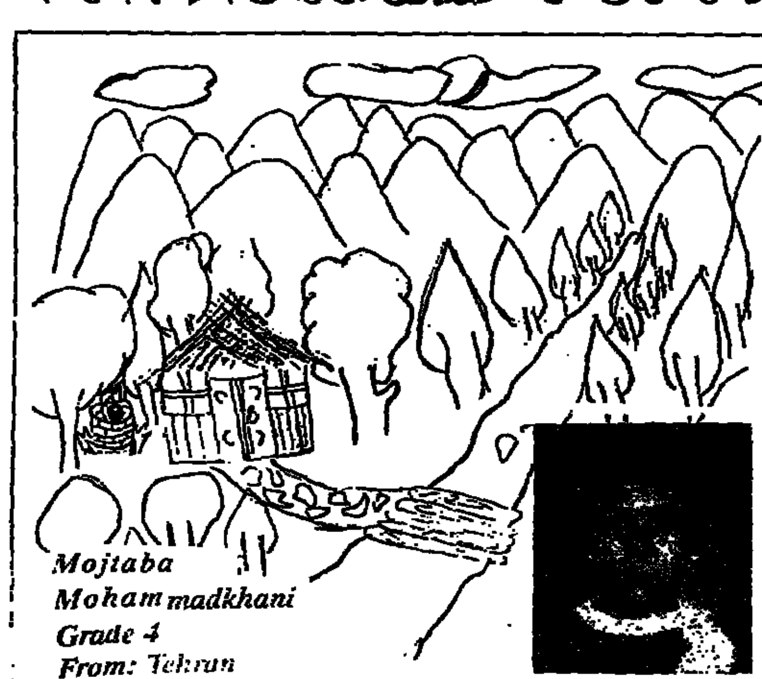
2. Ask an adult to press gently over the newspaper with a warm iron. The wax paper melts and seals around the leaf.



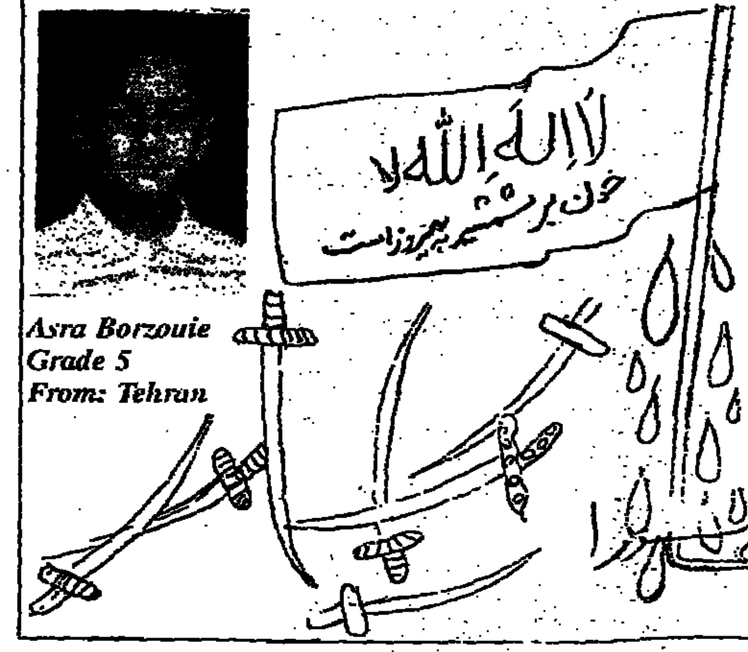
3. Trim the paper edge. Glue cardboard strips over the edges to create a frame. Tape onto a window so that sunlight can shine through.

(Courtesy Young World)

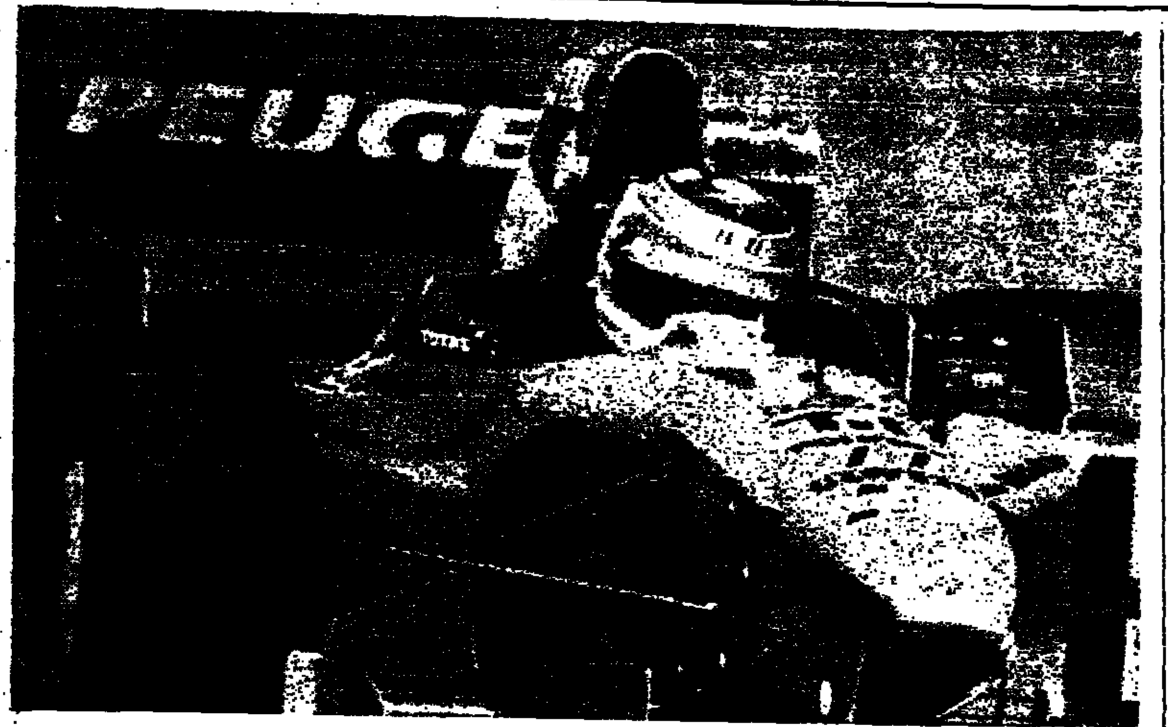




Mojtaba Mohammadkhani
Grade 4
From: Tehran



Asra Borzouie
Grade 5
From: Tehran



BARCELONA, Spain (Espana): (May 31) Brazilian Jordan-Peugeot driver Rubens Barrichello steers his car during the first timed practice session of the Spanish Formula 1 Grand Prix, on the circuit of Cataluna in Barcelona. Ferrari driver Eddy Irvine set the first time of the session.

(AFP PHOTO)

How the Deal to Share the World Cup Was Done

ZURICH (Reuter) – Intense lobbying involving high-ranking government and soccer officials was behind the surprise deal to jointly award the 2002 World Cup to Japan and South Korea, it emerged on Friday.

A letter, obtained by Reuters, was sent by Sepp Blatter, FIFA's general secretary, to Ken Naganuma, the president of the Football Association of Japan, asking the Japanese to consider the possibility of co-hosting the tournament on Thursday – just two days before FIFA were due to announce the outcome.

The letter says that the Korean Football Association "In a letter submitted on May 15 stated it would give consideration to the possibility of co-hosting the event if so requested by the FIFA executive commitee."

By apparently delaying the delivery of their letter to the Japanese until Thursday, FIFA effectively blocked any chance that Japan would in the meantime publicly endorse co-hosting the event.

Throughout the last two weeks whenever the issue was raised Japan continued to publicly state they were following FIFA's statutes which made no provision for co-hosting.

In doing that, they gave tacit support to FIFA President Joao Havelange, who was adamantly opposed to the idea of both countries sharing the 2002 World Cup.

Gnelange admitted he was forced to change his mind this week when he realized the feeling within his executive favoured either co-hosting, or awarding the event to South Korea.

Japan's reply was received by FIFA on Friday morning – just before the vote was taken. In it they said they would consider co-hosting – which was the surprise outcome on Friday afternoon.



Tehran Times Service

CRICKET

LONDON: South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock continued with the a start to his English county championship career when he and Andy Moles put together a record-breaking batting display for Warwickshire. Moles made an unbeaten 160 and pollock contributed 107 as they had a new sixth-wicket record stand for the midlanders of 194. Their partnership helped defending champions Warwickshire to an unlikely first-innings lead over Northamptonshire.

OLYMPICS

LOS ANGELES: American Kristine Quance has dropped her legal bid to swim in her specialty at the Atlanta Olympics. Quance, 21, qualified for the games in the 200-meter individual medley and the 100m breaststroke. But she was disqualified in her best event, the 400m individual medley, over a turn violation. She went to court but quit the bid.

Paris: Joint world number-one Monica Seles, currently bidding for a fourth singles title at the French open, wants to lead a campaign to have mary Joe Fernandez included in the United States Olympic team.

BEIJING: Chinese athletes selected for the Atlanta Olympics will be required to swear they are not taking performance-enhancing drugs. The Chinese Athletics Association will require all Atlanta-bound athletes, and their coaches, to guarantee in writing that they are not taking banned substances.

RUGBY

WHANGAREI, New Zealand: Scotland came off worse in a bruising rugby union encounter with New Zealand's Northland Province here on Friday, losing a dreary match 15-10.

JOHANNESBURG: Police stepped up a manhunt for two men who murdered two members of a well-known South African rugby family and injured a third. Police spokesman Mark Reynolds said investigators were searching for men who shot and wounded Louis Van Rensburg, a reserve fly-half with South Africa's Transvaal Rugby Union side, at his family's business in a northern suburb of Johannesburg on Thursday.

CANBERRA: The touring Welsh rugby team sought a replacement for injured reserve hooker Garin Jenkins, only one match into their eight-game Australian tour. Jenkins was sent home after medical tests revealed that he had a pinched nerve in his neck.

Carl "The Truth" Williams Wins Bout by DQ

RYE, New York (AP) — Carl "The Truth" Williams, a former heavyweight championship contender, won Friday night after Shawn Hart was disqualified for throwing low punches in the third round.

Referee Arthur Mercante Jr. disqualified Hart at 2:31 after warning Hart twice in the second round. Williams, who weighed 237 pounds (107.5 kilos), landed hard rights to Hart's body in the second round that forced him to take two standing 8-counts.

The 37-year-old Williams (27-9) had Hart in trouble in the third round with more rights to the body. Hart (11-6-3), 210 pounds (95.3 kilos), took a third standing 8-count and then hit Williams low again, causing Mercante to halt the fight.

In another scheduled 10-rounder, Willie Wise stopped Alfred Rojas at 1:05 of the eighth round to successfully defend his New York state welterweight title.

Wise (20-3-4), 147 pounds (66.7 kilos), forced Rojas to take a standing 8-count in the third round. Rojas, 147 (66.7 kilos), fell to 18-12-1.

Italy Ride Luck to Take Third Consecutive Under-21 Title

BARCELONA (Reuter) — Italy took their third consecutive European under-21 soccer title on Friday in characteristic fashion, beating Spain 4-2 on penalties after defending for 90 percent of a game which they ended with only nine men.

The match finished 1-1 after extra time, but three Spaniards missed from the spot to give Italy the title.

Italy had come out strongly and went ahead after 12 minutes when Spanish defender Inigo Idiakez deflected a free-kick from Rafaelli Ametrano into his own goal.

But the game changed course radically in the 36th minute when the referee, who had already made several bookings, seemed to overreact by sending off Nicola Amorusu for an off-the-ball incident with Jose Ignacio Sainz.

Buoyed by the numerical superiority, the hosts hit back just before halftime when Real Madrid striker Raul Gonzalez curled a superb free-kick past Italian goalkeeper Angelo Pagotto.

In the first period of extra time, Ametrano picked up a second yellow card for clipping Javier de Pedro's heels.

Reduced to just nine men Italy's defensive — and time-wasting — capacity was put to the test. But somehow they held out, and even put together a fine move which ended with Alessio Tacchinardi shooting over the bar.

Goalkeeper Pagotto excelled in the penalty shoot-out, and four Italians kept their heads to ensure the championship.

Earlier, in the third-place playoff France beat Scotland 1-0.

SAMPRAS:

Staying Off Clay a Plus Ahead of French Open?

PARIS (AP) — Missing the clay court season hasn't hurt Pete Sampras so far at the French open. In fact, it may have helped.

"Last year I was on clay for such a long period of time," Sampras said Friday after advancing to the fourth round with a five-set victory over Todd Martin. "This year I didn't play any clay court tennis, really. I just came over here and played duesseldorf."

"I think a lot of clay court players come here a little bit tired, a little bit fatigued, where I'm quite the opposite," Sampras said. "I feel like I'm pretty fresh and ready to go." But Sampras admits it's been a grind.

"It's been the toughest first week I've had in a major, that's for sure, to play these guys back-to-back," Sampras said after getting through the last two rounds against two-time champion Sergi Bruguera and Martin.

Martin came out blasting in the first set, but Sampras fought back to a 3-6, 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 victory in three hours, 20 minutes. He ended the match with his 20th ace, nine fewer than martin's total.

"This week has been - it's been a test, to say the least. To get through these matches," he said, "gives me a lot of confidence going into my next match."

Sampras' next opponent is 21-year-old Australian scott draper, who reached the fourth round of the French open last year.

"Anyone that's won three matches here has to be playing well," Sampras said.

In other third-round action Saturday, defending champion Thomas Muster faced Adrian Voinea of Romania.

Netherlands, Ukraine and Japan Make Olympic Berths

OSAKA, Japan (AFP) – The Netherlands, Japan and the Ukraine scored straight-sets wins in the women's volleyball final qualifying round here on Saturday to clinch a berth in the Atlanta Olympic games.

With one round to be played, the three teams top shared the lead in the eight-team round Robin Tournament – each with five wins against one defeat.

In an exciting last match of the day, the Japanese spikers, coasted to a convincing 15-10, 15-4, 15-1 victory over Croatia.

The three leading teams are now in an unbeatable position, regardless of the results of Sunday's games.

Earlier in the day, the Dutch European champions, who suffered a surprising defeat to Ukraine on Thursday, powered past Bulgaria 15-7, 15-9, 15-6.

Ukraine outclassed Italy 15-8, 15-8, 15-6 to stay in contention, while Romania scored their first win in six matches when they downed winless Taiwan 16-17, 15-8, 15-9, 15-12.

Croatia stood with a 4-2 win-loss record, followed by Italy and Bulgaria with 2-4.

Bolivia Rejoices at Altitude Victory

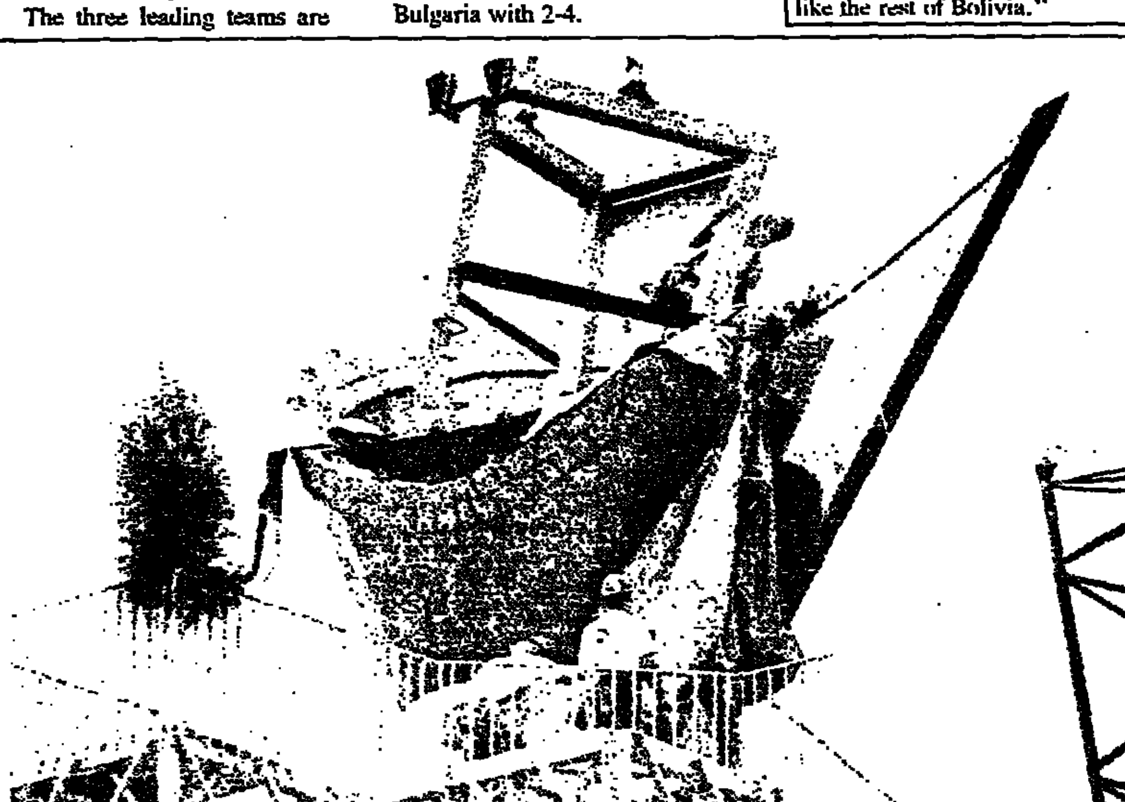
LA PAZ (Reuter) — Bolivia rejoiced on Friday after world soccer's governing body FIFA decided it could stage World Cup qualifying soccer matches at altitude in the capital La Paz.

Hundreds of people celebrated in streets, helped by the La Paz city band, newspapers produced special editions and the issue monopolised television and radio news.

President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada called a news conference especially to comment on the decision and the city Mayor Ronaldo Maclean declared it "a day of great rejoicing."

FIFA's executive had originally accepted a recommendation by the South American football confederation not to play matches at more than 3,000 metres above sea level. La Paz's Hernando Silas Stadium is at 3,600 metres.

"It is remarkable that from the plains, to the altiplano and the valleys, everyone has been united against this veto," said Sanchez de Lozada, who has waged an international campaign since the veto was announced in December. "My reaction was of relief, just like the rest of Bolivia."



ATLANTA, GA, United States: (May 30) Workers remove a protective cover from the Olympic Cauldron as it is lifted into place at the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta. The cauldron, where the Olympic flame will burn, sits atop a tower located between the stadium and Fulton County Stadium.

(AFP PHOTO)

Documents Center to Revive the History of Islamic Revolution Through 15th Khordad Quarterly


SA'IDI

In a bid to adopt a general framework, several scholars of history and political science, who have received their doctorates in related courses, cooperated for 8 months compiling 1,500 topics on the history of the Islamic Revolution.

Asked about the possibility of delineating the history of the Islamic Revolution through the pictures, Husseinian said such a work takes a long time.

The Hojjatoleslam said some biographies, memories and a collection of letters, messages, telegraphs decrees and scrolls by ulema and religious authorities issued during 1962-1978 have been published so far whether in *15 Khordad* quarterly or in separate books.

According to him biographies are not confined to the Iranian figures rather they include biographies of Islamic scholars from other countries as well.

Some 50 researchers are working in the center compiling and computerizing the documents.

Referring to certain TV or radio programs aired by overseas media concerning the history of the Islamic Revolution, he stressed that they are for distorting the history rather than presenting the facts.

Due to recommendations of the late Imam Khomeini who wanted the institute be independence the IRDC is ran as a non-proficiant institute to revive the history of the Islamic Revolution.

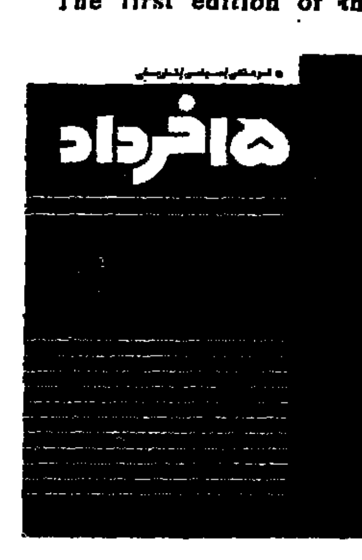
To this end the IRCD publishes *15 Khordad* quarterly which is the best available source for studies on the Islamic Revolution.

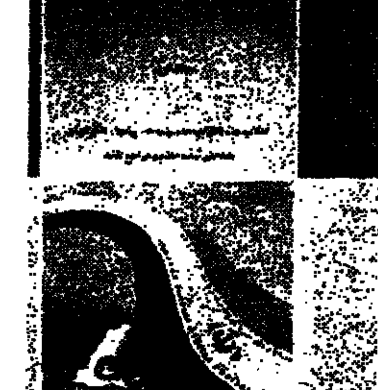
The quarterly's editor-in-chief, Mohammad Hussein Sa'idi told the *Tehran Times* that the *15th khordad* quarterly is the best source providing researchers with an access to primary sources on Iran's Islamic Revolution,

Sa'idi, also Iran's former cultural attache in Beirut, said the quarterly is mainly dominated by the issues relating to the history of the Islamic Revolution.

The quarterly provides researchers and those interested in the Islamic Revolution with certain fragments of the history of the revolution which are being registered gradually by the researchers of the IRDC.

The first edition of the





political, cultural and historical quarterly of *15th Khordad* was published on June 4, 1990. Some 20 editions of the quarterly have been published so far.

Three decades after the fateful event of *15th Khordad*, 1963, which sparked off the Islamic Revolution, and almost two decades after the culmination of the revolution in 1979, it seems necessary to recall the forgotten facts about the history of the revolution and obliterate certain ambiguities over it, he stressed.

The Documents Center is to write down the verbal history, he said, adding to this end the center has used the newly discovered documents on the Islamic Revolution.

Furthermore, the center has conducted interviews with the key figures of the Islamic Revolution including the Leader of Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

He said that the center has not confined itself to the statesmen rather it has consulted every common man who was believed to have something new about the Revolution.

Egyptian FM Discusses Netanyahu Win With U.S.

CAIRO (AFP) — The United States assured Egypt on Saturday of the need to "work together" for the peace process following the election of rightwing leader Benjamin Netanyahu as Israeli prime minister, the American ambassador to Cairo said.

Edward Walker met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa and "discussed the elections in Israel and the declared victory of the Likud Party and Netanyahu," he told journalists afterwards.

"I explained to him President Bill Clinton's continued complete support for the peace process and the need for all of us to work closely together so that we can ensure that our objectives for peace are met," he said.

Walker praised the "responsible and wise" reaction by Cairo to the Netanyahu win, adding that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's "approach reflects directly our own."

(Contd from Pg. 1)

30....

It said government jets went into action against the Taleban during the nine-hour battle, pounding the militia with cluster bombs.

The Defense Ministry claimed that the Talehan suffered 25 killed, including a well-known commander, identified as Shah Mohammad Kandahari.

The government troops destroyed a Taleban tank and several vehicles, besides capturing 10 AK-47 rifles and four machineguns, the ministry said.

The statement said five government troops were killed and 20 injured in the battles.

It alleged that the Taleban had received military assistance from Pakistan in Saturday's offensive. Pakistan has always denied extending any support to the Taleban and stressed that it sides with no faction in the Afghan conflict.

"Our troops are well entrenched on the frontline, occupying strategically important posts," in the embattled area in Kogal, the Defense Ministry said.

The government claims could not be independently confirmed and no comment was immediately available from the Taleban camp.

Earlier, military officials in Kabul confirmed the fall of a provincial capital city in Afghanistan's central Ghor region to Taleban forces.

Chaghcharan was taken by the Taleban on Thursday after a military commander of forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani defected to the Islamic militia, a military official here said.

But, he said pro-Rabbani troops were still entrenched around the fallen city and some other districts in Ghor.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

LEADER....

proof to the rightfulness of the Islamic Republic system, said the Leader of the revolution.

The Leader added that in creating a flourishing economy and a prosperous country, only those actions will be successful that are based on Islamic ideology and principles and are directed towards strengthening the ideals, values and slogans of the Islamic Revolution.

The Leader added that the deputies of the Fifth Majlis should be highly careful in approving all plans and projects for construction of the country and make sure to serve the dignity and honor of the nation under the values of Islam and the revolution.

Ayatollah Khamenei urged the Majlis deputies to stand against the deviated liberalism of the West in which he said the European and American nations are trapped and by which they find their spirituality and faith destroyed.

The Supreme Leader regarded the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) as the manifestation of national unity, solidarity and consensus among all factions and ethnic groups, saying this is one of the most glorious evidence of the unity enjoyed by the Iranian nation.

Ayatollah Khamenei recommended the Fifith Majlis deputies to value this unity and focus all their efforts on strengthening it, reminding that all statements, approvals and speeches in the Majlis should be directed towards consolidating the unity of the Iranian people.

Recalling that during its past four terms, the Majlis had been a forum for exchange of various views, the Leader said that the current term should also be the same.

In some terms, political confrontations between deputies did not prevent the Majlis from performing its important duty of preserving national concurrence nor did it turn the Majlis into a means of creating tension, the Leader said, adding that no doubt this is a source of honor for every term of the Majlis.

The Supreme Leader stressed that the Majlis platform should not be used as a means to discourage the people and make them pesimist about the government or Majlis or other officials.

Political factions, despite their difference of opinion about certain issues should focus their efforts on the progress of the country under the honorable banner of Islam.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution referred to the status of parliaments in other countries and said Western parliaments are not eligible to be modeled upon from political point of view and moreover in light of political composition, a large state like Iran possessing lofty moral and political values should not follow or imitate the example of the others.

Rightist or leftist interpretations or insistence on forming political parties in the Parliament and the likes are the worthless gifts brought by the West and that it is beneath the Majlis to accept such things blindly.

The revered leader, pointing to the close cooperation between the Majlis and the government, said the Majlis is required to build close relationship with the government. He added that establishing such relationship is up to the members of Parliament and that the MPs are expected to pass law enabling the government to properly administer the state and supervise the executive affairs through legal channels.

He said, however, that the Majlis deputies are not expected to avoid exercising their legal authority regarding questioning and impeachment.

The Supreme Leader urged the MPs of the Fifth Majlis to consolidate their relationship with the deprived strata of society through which the MPs could recognize the priorities in their job as well as the ultimate needs of the people.

The Leader called on the Majlis deputies to observe piety and morality and not to take heed of the materialistic benefits.

The Fifth Majlis officially opened about eight in the morning Saturday with a message from Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

249 elected deputies to the 270-seat Majlis were sworn in yesterday in the presence of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, as well as Cabinet ministers and other high-ranking officials of the country.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

DEVE....

ter a majority in the 545-seat Parliament.

Twelve cabinet ministers and eight ministers of state were sworn in along with Deve Gowda, the former chief minister of the southern state of Karnataka and a leader of the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party).

Deve Gowda's Janata Dal won 45 seats in India's April-May general elections and is the largest party in the United Front, an alliance of centrist, leftist and regional parties.

The United Front has been promised the support of other parties in the Lok Sabha, or Lower House of Parliament, including the Congress (I) Party, and has been given until June 12 to prove its majority on the floor of the house.

The two-tier cabinet included representatives of India's Hindu, Sikh and Muslim religious communities, "untouchables," members of the lowest rung in the Hindu caste ladder and a woman.

It was drawn from the five parties which have committed themselves so far to the United Front — the Janata Dal, the Tamil Maanila Congress (TMC) and the DMK from the southern state of Tamil Nadu, the Socialist Party (SP) and the Telegu Desam Party (TDP).

The 12 cabinet ministers sworn in Saturday were: Balwant Singh Ramoowalia (unaffiliated), C.M. Ibrahim (Janata Dal), Devendra Prasad Yadav (Janata Dal), I.K. Gujral (Janata Dal), M. Arunachalam (TMC), Mulayam Singh Yadav (Socialist Party), Murasoli Maran (DMK), P. Chidambaram (TMC), Ram Vilas Paswan (Janata Dal), S.R. Bommai (Janata Dal), T.G. Venkataraman (DMK) and Yarram Naidu (TDP).

Meanwhile, H.D. Deve Gowda received a boost shortly before being sworn in as India's 11th prime minister on Saturday with an announcement that his centrist party had picked up another seat in Parliament.

Shivananda Koujalagi of the Janata Dal (People's Party) was declared elected from Deve Gowda's southern home state of Karnataka, defeating Hindu nationalist candidate Babagouda Patil by more than 74,000 votes, domestic news agencies said.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MUBARAK....

Netanyahu, leader of the nationalist Likud Party, telephoned Mubarak on Friday after he was officially declared the winner in Israel's Wednesday elections, the state news agency MENA said.

Mubarak invited the prime minister-elect to visit Cairo, while Netanyahu confirmed he would respect "his commitments in the peace process," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa told journalists late Friday.

The Egyptian president also made calls to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Jordan's King Hussein, the United States, Britain and France "to draw up an action plan to continue the peace process," the government daily *Al-Ahram al-Misai* said.

The Egyptian president is to meet with his Syrian counterpart Hafez al-Asad in a few days then attend a three-way summit between Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian authority in Jordan at the end of next week, Mussa said.

"If the coming Israeli government shows positive cooperation with the Arabs to push negotiations, then the Arabs and especially Egypt will extend their hands to Netanyahu," *Al-Ahram al-Misai* said in an editorial Saturday.

But the paper underlined that "Arab nations must arrange their cards and organize their ranks to enter the battle for seeking peace in light of the Israeli election results."

(Contd from Pg. 1)

GERMANY....

The spokesman refused to give details, but the newspaper Bild reported Saturday that the redistribution of German aid has been under negotiation for the past year among Germany, France and Israel.

The three countries promised to keep the talks secret so as not to interfere with the Israeli election campaign, the daily said.

Bild said that in 1997, Israel will receive $33 million and the Palestinians 53 million. The newspaper also said Germany pledged to continue for five more years its aid to an irrigation program in the Negev Desert, to the tune of $6.5 million a year.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CHECHENS....

The Chechens threatened renewed fighting throughout Chechnya as local officials tried to prevent further clashes in Shali, some 35 kilometers (22 miles) southeast of the capital Grozny.

Chechen spokesman Movladi Udugov said that if Moscow fulfilled its plans to hold parliamentary elections in Chechnya on June 16, the same day as Russian presidential polls, "it would mean a resumption of military operations throughout Chechnya."

Extra Russian troops moved into position Saturday on the outskirts of Shali, reinforcing a blockade of the town imposed early Friday.

Early Saturday a delegation of local Chechen officials went to the Russian military camp on the edge of Shali to hold talks with General Vladimir Shamanov, deputy commander of Russian troops in the breakaway north Caucasus republic.

Interfax said Nikolai Koshman, prime minister in the pro-Moscow Grozny government, also went to Shali to negotiate with the Russian command there.

In Grozny one Russian soldier was killed and three were wounded in attacks by the Chechen separatists in the past 24 hours, the Russian military command said. It was not clear whether the attacks took place before or after the cease-fire took effect.

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 37°C, Min. temp. 24°C

Partly cloudy with wind

Warmest Point:
Omidieh 47°C

Coldest Point:
Firoozkouh 5°C

Some cities of the world			
Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Jedda	36	Vienna	25
Riyadh	43	Moscow	15
Istanbul	—	Madrid	25
Rome	23	Abu Dhabi	44
Athens	29	Karachi	32
London	17	New Delhi	—
Paris	18	Kuwait	45
Frankfurt	—		

Imam Hussein Martyrdom Anniversary Commemorated in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT (IRNA) — The traditional third day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) was marked in the Uzbek capital on Thursday night.

At the ceremony held at the Iranian Embassy premises, mourners from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan joined the local Uzbeks to pay homage to the Infallible Household of Prophet Mohammad (S).

The gathering recalled the self-sacrifice sacrifice of the Holy Prophet's grandson to revive Islam and its dynamic values which the Omayyud despot Yazid ibn Muaviyah was trying to destroy.

The gathering listened to a discourse on the philosophy of Imam Hussein's uprising and the events of Karbala by Hojjatoleslam Akbari, who is an instructor at Tehran's Martyr Beheshti University.

Hojjatoleslam Akbari also noted that the founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam Khomeini, continued the path of Imam Hussein (AS), and showed to the modern world what faith and trust in God can do.

According to another IRNA report from Kermanshah, mourning ceremonies have been held in the Iraqi Kurdish city of Soleimaniyeh to mark the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) as well as the seventh anniversary of the departure of the father of the Islamic Revolution, late Imam Khomeini.

Fowad Hassani, who is in Iran to represent Shia community of Suleimaniyeh, northern Iraq, in ceremonies to be held in commemoration of the late Imam Khomeini, said on Saturday that similar mourning ceremonies were also held in other Iraqi Kurdish cities, organized by leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talebani.

According to Hassani, a 2,000-square meter plot of land has been allocated to the building of a mosque to be namded after Imam Khomeini.

A member of Governing Committee of the Mujahedeen Movement of the Iraqi Kurdistan, Kak Sheikh Mohammad Saleh, said the late Imam Khomeini belongs to the entire Islamic world and that Iraqi Kurds were acting upon the late Imam's guidelines in their rightful struggles.

FALLAHIAN: *Iran Strongest Country in Persian Gulf Region*

Tehran Times Service

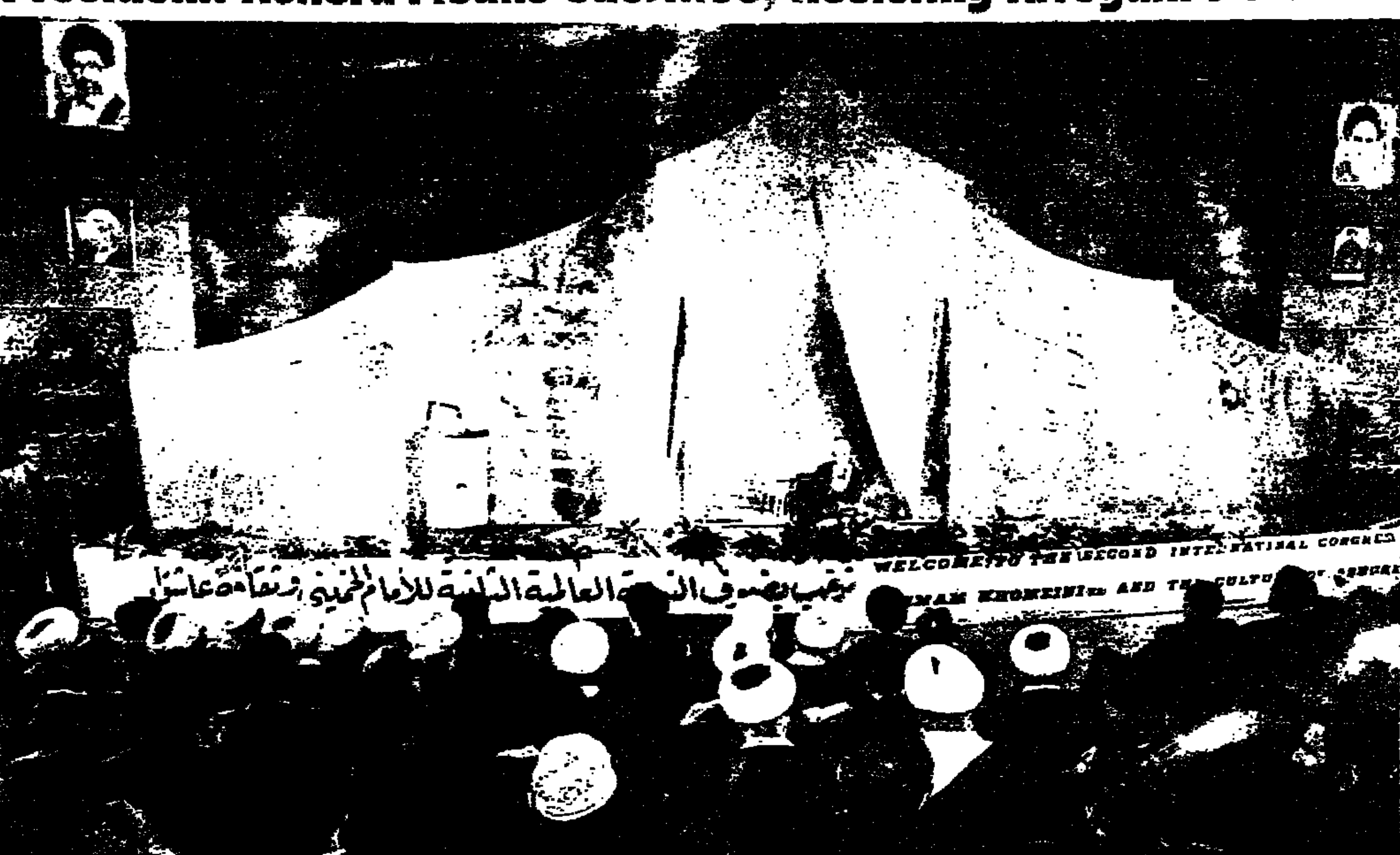
TEHRAN — The Information Minister Hojjatoleslam Ali Fallahian in Savojbolagh on Saturday stressed that the Islamic Revolution has inspired the people all over the world due to the unity and solidarity of the Iranian nation.

Addressing a group of people at the memorial ceremony that marked the first anniversary of the burial of some 1000 martyrs of the sacred defense, he added that thanks to the Almighty and the martyrs' sacrifices, Iran is about to establish a powerful state through utilizing its cultural and industrial capabilities.

Alluding to the remarkable national construction projects implemented by the President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government, such as Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajar railway project, Fallahian said Iran has turned out to be the most powerful country in the region.

"This fact, which is now realized by most European countries, has prompted the French mass media to call on the French government to maintain and strengthen its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and abstain from launching adverse propaganda campaign against it," the minister concluded.

President: Ashura Means Sacrifice, Resisting Arrogant Powers



TEHRAN (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, addressing the Second International Congress on Imam Khomeini and the Culture of Ashura which opened at the Tehran University Friday evening, said the most distinguished features of Ashura, as well as the message of Imam Khomeini and the Islamic Revolution, are sacrifice and the fight against the monopolistic policies of arrogant powers.

The struggle against arrogance and infidels is a common aspect between the culture of Ashura and Imam Khomeini's movement, noted the president, adding that Imam Hussein (AS) was highly concerned that atheism might spread worldwide.

The president said the emergence of a powerful Islamic Iran was one of the fruits of Imam Khomeini's blessed movement, which was inspired by the Ashura culture.

From the political point of view, the fight against oppressors is a principle of the Ashura uprising. This idea has been given serious consideration in Iran, making the Islamic Republic a bastion of Islamic culture and a source of inspiration for those who want to implement Islamic laws all over the world, he added.

Around 1,100 scholars and thinkers from all over the world are participating in the congress, which is to conclude on June 2.

Iran-Portugal Parliamentary Cooperation Discussed

MADRID (IRNA) — Iran's Ambassador to Portugal Abolfazl Rahnama and Portuguese Parliament Speaker Antonio Santos on Thursday discussed Iran-Portugal bilateral cooperation and parliamentary relations.

During the meeting, Rahnama briefed the Portuguese official on the recent parliamentary elections in Iran.

Underlining the significance of the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ambassador stressed expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the parliamentary affairs.

Pointing to interrelationship among the international issues such as peace and stability, protection of environment and fight against narcotic drugs, the Portuguese official underscored parliamentary cooperation as a medium for exchange of views among world nations.

He hoped for further expansion of cooperation between parliaments of the two countries.

The two sides also agreed to exchange parliamentary delegations in near future.

Electoral Court Summons Wajed for Poll Code Violation

DHAKA (AFP) — A Bangladeshi district electoral enquiry court has summoned Awami League Party chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed or her representative to face charges that she violated poll codes, officials here Saturday confirmed.

The court in north-eastern Sylhet will hear the case on June 4 after charges were brought by a local leader from the rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, they said.

The Banglabazar Daily newspaper reported that the judge asked Wajed or her representative to respond to allegations that she violated the election code of conduct during recent campaign speeches in the district.

Wajed was accused of announcing at a May 14 campaign rally in Sylhet that, if her party was elected, Sylhet airport would be made an international airport, the report said.

This is the second such summons against top political leaders ahead of the June 12 parliamentary elections. A court in northern Mymensingh district earlier asked BNP chief Zia to defend herself against similar charges on June 3.

Iraqi Delegations Arrive in Kermanshah

KERMANSHAH (IRNA) — Four delegations comprising leaders and ranking members of political, religious and tribal groups in the Iraqi Kurdistan arrived here Friday night to take part in ceremonies marking the seventh anniversary of departure of the late Imam Khomeini.

The group entered the Islamic Republic via Oramanat and Sar Pol-e Zahab, in western Iran, neighboring Iraq.

Clinton Accuser in Whitewater Trial Goes to Prison

LITTLE ROCK, Ark (Reuter) — The prosecution's star witness in the just-finished Whitewater trial began serving a 28-month prison sentence on Friday for defrauding a federal agency.

David Hale, who accused President Bill Clinton, then governor of Arkansas, of pressuring him to make an illegal $300,000 loan in 1986, checked into a minimum-security federal prison in Fort Worth, Texas, officials said.

Prison spokesman Betty Taylor said Hale would undergo a week of "*routine screening*, including a medical exam," then join the inmate population.

Hale pleaded guilty to two counts of defrauding the small business administration when he ran a federally backed investment company. He got the 28-month sentence as part of a plea bargain agreement with federal prosecutors in exchange for his testimony in the Whitewater trial.

Defendants James McDougal, his ex-wife, Susan McDougal, and Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker were found guilty on Tuesday of multiple counts of fraud related to a mid-1980s scheme involving federally backed financial institutions.

Copenhagen Willing to Broaden Ties With Tehran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Saturday received the outgoing Danish Ambassador in Iran, Erling Harild, and welcomed enhancement of ties with Copenhagen.

The Danish diplomat referring to the inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroad called it a great achievement for the world.

He said the railway is a linking chain which bridges Central Asia to Europe.

At the end of his mission Harild expressed Copenhagen's willingness to upgrade its ties and cooperation with Tehran.

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TEHRAN TIMES

international news

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Stowaway Earns $36,000 From Begging

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - Police said Saturday they have arrested a handicapped Chinese illegal immigrant who claims to have earned 1 million Taiwan dollars ($36,000) as a beggar on Taiwan's streets.

He was arrested Friday begging in Taiwan's streets. He entered Taiwan in Nov. 1994 from Fugian Province, south China and sent most of his earnings home to his poor family.

Like thousands of other Chinese stowaways, he was detained for repatriation, police said.

Teen Who Blinded Tourist, to Wear Eye Patch

ORLANDO, Florida (Reuter) - A Florida teenager who threw a chunk of concrete through a car windscreen and partially blinded a German tourist has been ordered to wear an eye patch during his one-year jail term to understand how blindness feels.

Judge Cynthia Mackinnon ordered Zakee Chambers, 15, to wear the patch to understand the plight of Andrea Hartmann.

"I think it's important for you to understand what this lady has gone through and will continue to go through for the rest of her life," the judge told chambers on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka MPs Threaten to Bring Down Government Over Strike



COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (May 31): President Chandrika Kumaratunga gestures as she talks to the press declaring she faces a "conspiracy" aimed at overthrowing her and warned she might act "undemocratically" to help end a three-day blackout caused by striking power workers. Kumaratunga vows to sack those behind the unprecedented stoppage.

(AFP PHOTO)

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka Saturday imposed fresh conditions on workers despite a settlement to the electricity workers' strike brokered by back-bench ruling party MPs who promptly threatened to bring the government down.

Ruling People's Alliance legislators who hammered out a compromise deal with trade unions to end the nation-wide four-day blackout said they were astonished by the government's decision to keep away the workers.

"This is ridiculous," government back-bencher Ravi Karunanayake said. "The (state) radio is warning that employees will lose their jobs unless they report for work but when they turn up they are asked to go away."

He said back-bench MPs who have formed themselves into a faction called the "Mulberry Group" brought about the settlement in a bid to restore electricity to the country but the Ceylon electricity board authorities were blocking it.

The Mulberry Group with its formidable 45-member block vote will consider voting against a crucial debate in the 225-member assembly next week unless the government honored their agreement with the unions.

"This is a prestige battle," Mulberry front runner Dulles Alahaperuma said. "The minister (Anuruddha Ratwatte) is unhappy because we brought about a settlement. But we will show our strength at the right time."

Earlier in the day, trade unions and the Mulberry Group had agreed to a four-point compromise formula under which the government was to reconsider privatization.

Blast Wrecks French Social Security Office

PERIGUEUX, France (AFP) — A "sophisticated" explosive device went off outside a social security office in this heart of the Dordogne region overnight, causing major damage though no injuries, police said Saturday.

The blast wrecked two floors of the three-storey building, which housed a health benefits office for the unemployed, blew out nearby windows and damaged cars parked nearby.

No one immediately claimed responsibility. The local prosecutor said the bomb was "not home-made but seemed more sophisticated."

The Dordogne is a popular tourist area in southwestern France for both French and foreign visitors and has a large number of English residents.

Sinn Fein Ups Vote, Claims N.Ireland Talks Seat

BELFAST (Reuter) — Sinn Fein, banned from Northern Ireland peace talks until its IRA guerrilla allies declare a truce, scored upset wins in Northern Ireland elections on Friday and claimed a place at the negotiating table next month.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams challenged British Prime Minister John Major to admit his party to the June 10 peace talks like any other party which won seats at the poll.

"He (Major) imposed this election. He said it was a route to all-party talks. That's what people voted for and that's what should happen," a jubilant Adams told reporters.

But Major said: "I hope the IRA will now heed this democratic vote for peace by declaring an unequivocal cease-fire, thus opening the way for Sinn Fein's representatives to take part in the negotiations with the other parties."

Sinn Fein's share of the vote was 15 percent, its biggest ever. The unexpectedly good showing was a snub to the British government and a setback to its more moderate SDLP (Social Democratic and Labour Party) rival, which also wants an end to British rule and Irish reunification.

Final results from the election for a non-executive forum to select negotiation teams for the June 10 talks showed the province split along traditional lines between pro-British Protestants and pro-Irish Catholics.

But there were setbacks at both extremes. The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) of David Trimble reestablished itself as the dominant voice of Protestants but lost ground to the more hardline Democratic Unionists of the reverend Ian Paisley.

Polls Put Klaus Ahead as Czech Vote Closes

PRAGUE (AFP) — Exit polls put the ruling center-right party of Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus ahead, as expected, Saturday as voting ended in the Czech Republic's third democratic election since the fall of communism in 1989.

If confirmed the result makes the Czech Republic the only Central European country not to see former communists returned to power in states they once ruled as allies of the Soviet Union.

Polling stations closed at 2:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) and first estimates based on exit polls were published shortly afterwards.

Klaus's Civic Democratic Party (ODS) won 32.5 percent of the vote, according to an exit poll conducted by the private television station Nova.

It said the party's main rival, the Social-Democratic Party (CSSD) of Milos Zeman, won 22.5 percent. The CSSD had emerged as a credible alternative to the right after a campaign which played on the hardship caused by free-market economic reforms though had a tough fight against the government's record of steady growth and low unemployment.

Klaus's ODS had been widely tipped to win the poll which saw some 7.9 million voters eligible to cast ballots in 15,000 polling stations under a system of proportional representation.

President Vaclav Havel, casting his ballot when polling stations opened on Friday, declared the elections "a festival of democracy."

Thousands Rally Outside Aung San Suu Kyi's House

RANGOON (AFP) — Thousands of people rallied outside the home of Aung San Suu Kyi Saturday for the second week in another strong show of support for the Burmese opposition leader.

Some 4,000 people gathered outside Aung San Suu Kyi's lakeside home to hear her outline the political and economic aims of her National League for Democracy (NLD) following a key pro-democracy meeting last week.

"We are going to increase the party's momentum, as is our right," she told the crowds of cheering supporters, as she announced the party's decision to lay out a new constitution and economic package.

The official media has been reporting pro-government rallies bringing together tens of thousands of people across the country, apparently in response to huge turnouts in front of Aung San Suu Kyi's house last week.

Floods Kill 23 in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN (Reuter) — Floods killed 23 people in Ivory Coast's commercial capital on Friday, state television reported.

One person was missing and presumed dead.

"The results of investigations passed to us at the end of the day give a toll unfortunately of 23 dead," Interior Minister Emile Constant Bombet told an interviewer.

Officials said those killed in the floods triggered by heavy overnight rain included many children. Ivory Coast is part way through one of its two annual rainy seasons.

Asylum Doctor Becomes Patient After Predicting World's End

CAIRO (AFP) — A doctor at an Egyptian mental hospital became a patient after he announced Armageddon was imminent and stabbed a colleague, the weekly Akbar al-Youm reported Saturday.

Doctors at Cairo's Abbasiya Asylum started worrying about their unnamed colleague when he started "behaving hysterically" and then "announced the date of Armageddon," asylum head Sayed al-Qitt told the paper.

The doctor went on vacation the same day as he predicted world's end. But when nothing happened he returned to work and stabbed a colleague who tried to discuss the matter with him, the paper said.

He was detained, diagnosed as a schizophrenic and committed to the same ward where he had once worked.

Six Shot, Including Gunman, in Northern Territory Rampage

DARWIN, Australia (AFP) — Four police officers and a civilian were shot and wounded during a five-hour rampage by a lone gunman in the Northern Territory township of Palmerston, south of Darwin, Saturday.

The 23-year-old gunman, firing a pump-action shotgun, first shot a woman officer and a Tactical Response Group (TRG) policeman who had been responding to reports of shots being fired near a house.

Police told a news conference a civilian who was at the scene was also shot and that it was "a miracle" no one was killed in the incident.

The shootings came just a month after a massacre in the historic township of Port Arthur in the island state of Tasmania, where 29 people were killed by another lone gunman.

In response to the Port Arthur tragedy, the government has undertaken to tighten up gun laws with a ban on automatic and semi-automatic ban weapons and a comprehensive national gun registration scheme.

However, there has been strong opposition to the moves from pro-gun groups who rallied around the country Saturday in angry protests against the more stringent regulations.



MINSK, Belarus (May 30): Riot police clashes with demonstrators protesting against the pro-Russian policy of Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, here. Several thousands of people took part in the anti-government rally which was later dispersed by the police. Many protesters were arrested.

(AFP PHOTO)



8-Page Special Issue

SUNDAY JUNE 2, 1996; KHORDAD 13, 1375; MOHARRAM 15, 1417

In Memory of Imam Khomeini

Tehran Times Service

With the Divine care, the Iranian Muslim people's support and sacrifice, the late Imam Khomeini created a significant revolution in Iran.

Religion and Politics

The major change is related to the concept of state management in the Muslim communities especially in the theological centers

The big change of concept that survived for decades and prevented religion from having a say in politics, can be considered a semi-miracle since this concept not only over-wheeled the community but also it became a part of its intellect.

The common fact of the Prophet's concern of politics and social issues became something against belief not only amid the masses but also the students of religious sciences and the theological centers.

It was a grave responsibility gle in the inner part of the community—the theological centers—where the so-called pious and holy had a middle ages fossilized mentality.

In this regard the late Imam said:

"At the beginning of the religious scholar was not allowed to exceed the limited boundaries of activity as of giving opinions over the politics and the state of affairs.

"The haughty religious men shunned the community con-

Imam Khomeini's Guidelines

This brought about a radical change in the modern world and set up a political system based on divine foundation with Divine injunction.

From the very beginning of his struggle, Imam Khomeini targeted the despotic regime and the Western norms to replace them with Islamic system and its genius ethos which for centuries the enemies of Islam tried to cast away, to be thoroughly forgotten and replaced by immoral concepts.

The late Imam carried the heavy burden, fully aware of the enemy tricks throughout Islamic history which was subjected to their assaults and identify distortion at all levels. He confronted all such evils through persistent struggle.

He made great efforts to explain to the people the genuine Islamic concepts, to spread these concepts and get them firmly rooted in the community. He managed to expose the deviated trends which others considered as norms and values.

He proved the inferiority and invalidity. He always referred to the Islamic concepts and the revolution's achievements as Allah's bounties that should be protected and safeguarded. He encouraged the authority of the Islamic republic to adhere to these concepts and then be sure of their survival. In one of his speeches regarding the reconstruction of the country, he said:

"Be careful and guard the moral and social values. Your organizations should be on guard against corruption. The deviant groups who do not consider the Divine laws stand unwitting to seize opportunities. They should know that you are quite aware of their stupid intentions."

Some of the concepts and values confirmed in his speeches can be mentioned here for us to protect and safeguard the great achievements that overwhelmed the whole world with its bright light.

and schools of religious sciences. The wrong concept of separating religion from politics was imposed on the Muslim communities by the colonialists, and helped the ignorance to generalize it.

The great impact of the concept was perceived by those who were acquainted with the conditions in the theological centers of that time. Those who lived in such an atmosphere knew of the extent of oppression and fear that dominated the centers.

Hence, more than the others they appreciated the late Imam's efforts in changing the situation.

Throughout his speeches, the late Imam referred to the deviated mentality and distorted belief which the reactionaries spread and protected. In one of his speeches the late Imam said:

"The very beginning of the imperialists' efforts to inflict blows on the theological centers and schools of religious sciences was the separation of religion from politics, to the extent that involvement in politics had nothing to do with the religious leader's concerns and was no less than an accusation of serving foreigners."

to confront this trend in the community. Without changing such mentality, it was difficult to fight imperialism or achieve success.

The leader of the Islamic revolution was in need of strong aides to help him achieve his goal. At the start he could hardly find such strong help, hence he had no other way but to start the battle single-handed and educate bright revolutionary students to confront the imperialist satanic movements; he nurtured students who were not only ready to confront the despotic Shah regime, the West and imperialism, but also to carry out the heavy strug-

conflict, if one said, 'the Shah is a traitor', one would hear, 'the Shah is a Shiite'. There was a group who demonstrated piety and considered every activity as unlawful (*haraam*).

"No one was strong enough to stand against and oppose this group. Your old father (Imam himself) had greatly suffered the pressures and evils from this group. When the slogan of separating religion from politics became dominant, and the religious jurisprudence—according to the ignorance's logic—was only to give verdicts regarding personal affairs and worship details, the cerns and sufferings; hence, according to their claims, such men were more respected. Otherwise, those active religious men, concerned for community political and social issues were accused of mischief and evil intentions."

Such was the situation in the theological centers that the most misleading ones were those demonstrating the most piety and holiness. To them, learning a foreign language was infidelity. To teach or learn philosophy and mysticism was labeled as disobedience of Divine orders.

When the wise young man Mostafa (May Allah bless him) drank some water from a jug in the Feiziyya Theological School, they rushed and broke the jug because his father was teaching philosophy.

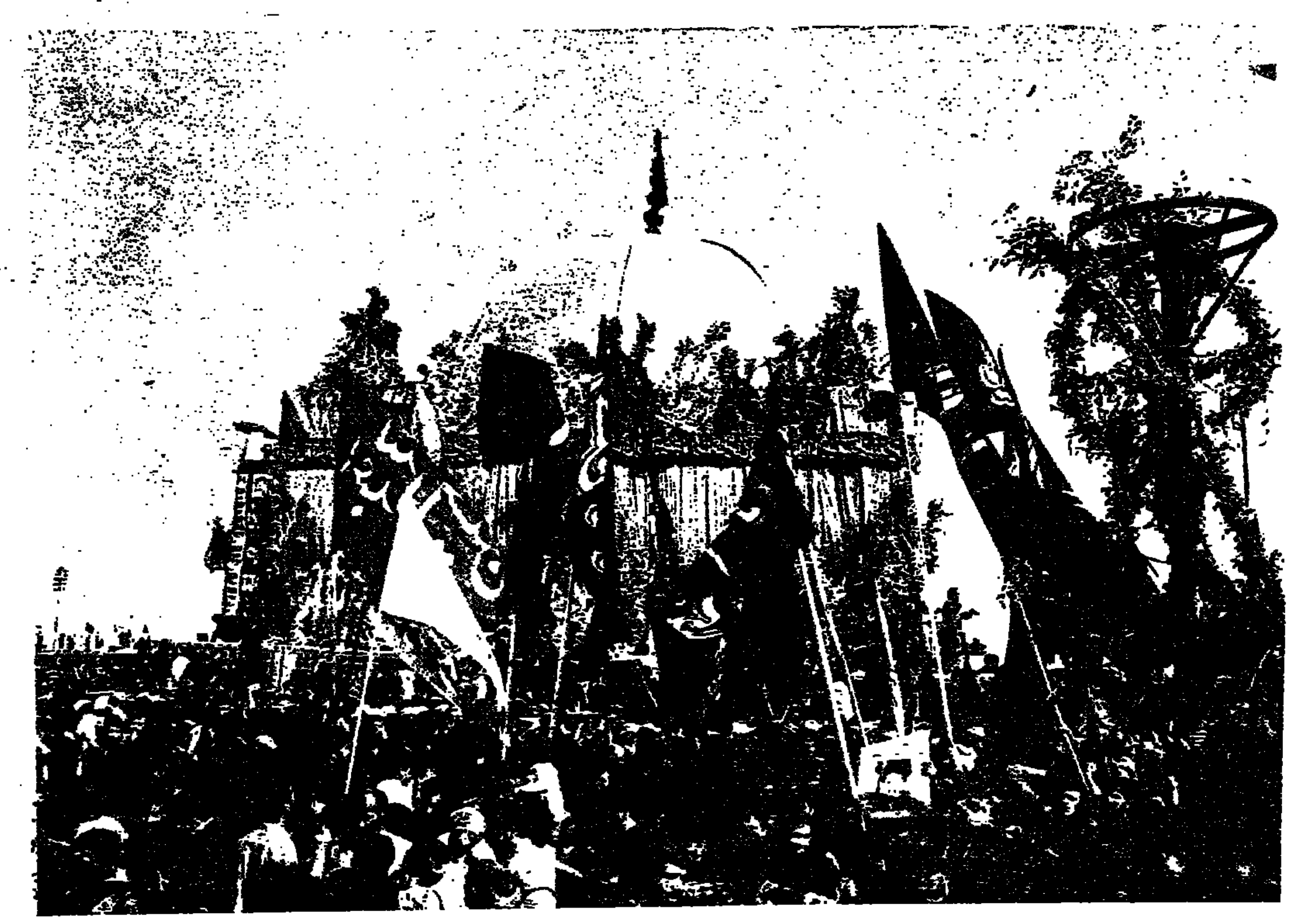
I am quite sure, had such situation continued, the students of the religious sciences and the theological centers would have suffered similar situation of European churches in the dark (middle) ages. The Almighty Allah has showered His blessings on the students and protected the theological centers and the sublime status.

The Imam's suffering in such a situation cannot be compared to other sufferings of which he never complained nor uttered such words so explicitly. It seems here he did not aim at remembering his sufferings or at a historical ancient, rather at warning the theological centers and the revolutionary students of religious sciences, not to forget the past or to allow such deviated ideas to reappear under different masks and through tricky methods. He admonished the generations through perceiving history.

He said:

"Today, there is a group that demonstrates piety which it directs its arrows at the religion, the revolution and the Islamic system. It seems this is its special duty. The danger of the fossilized stupid students

(Contd on Pg. 2)



The mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeini densely packed with mourners during the early days of his sad departure. It was an all-night mourning center wherein the late Imam's lovers, from the remotest areas, used to gather and mourn on the decease of their beloved Leader. Despite the heavy crowd of mourners, the hall was roofed within 40 days through the ceaseless efforts of the late Imam's lovers.



Imam Khomeini's Guidelines



(Contd from Pg. 1)

who demonstrate holiness in the theological centers is not small. Dear students of the regions sciences, be careful of those cheating serpents. They *try to spread American Islam.*

They are the enemies of the Messenger of Allah (SAW).''

We are not here repeating the Imam's speeches, nor are we glorifying his sublime status, rather reminding all those concerned of their responsibility, showing through this speech the border line that separates the pure Islam from the compromising Islam encouraged by America.

This is clear in his words:

''Confrontation of the American Islam is quite complicated and needs to be clarified to the oppressed Muslims. It is a pity this has not yet been clear to the majority of the Muslims that.

''There is a big difference between the pure Islam and the American Islam; between the Islam of the oppressed and that of the fossilized who make a show of piety; between the capitalists who do not know God, who lead a luxurious life and do not suffer from a hard life. This fact should be clear. There cannot be double standard or contradiction in one religion and one doctrine. This is an essential political duty to be achieved.''

Obedience to the Leader

Belief in the religious leadership (*Velayat-e-Faqih*) is considered the main base of the Islamic revolution system. It is a criterion for sorting out each individual's position, throughout all stages of conflict, and in regard to adherence to religious leadership and support of the Islamic system.

A glance at the years of struggle up to the present clearly indicates the true supporters of the Islamic doctrine: some never had a role in the struggle and throughout 10 years of the Imam's rule they rejected his orders on various pretexts and articulated their opinions without the least concern for the negative impact on the community. If today they declare support of the religious leadership, they should not be believed. The future will expose their true faces.

Today those who demand a renewal of relations with America and doubt the revolution's subtle principle, they even default the verdict in the case of *The Satanic Verses*' apostate writer, Salmon Rushdie. They are of no importance, yet the enemies of Islam deliberately consider them spokesmen of the Islamic system which has nothing to do with them.

How can those who until recently opposed the late Imam's policy in all levels, consider themselves the only followers of the religious leadership and raise the slogan of 'Faith in the Religious Leadership'.

It is a cover to meet their ends. Similarly are those who until recently followed the late Imam's policy, if today they refrain from supporting the religious leadership and damage the system, will they be suspected of their real motivations? Perhaps they supported the late Imam for some special reason such as having their ideas in harmony with his. Otherwise, they would have disobeyed him.

Surely the firm status of the religious leadership as clearly cut and firmly shaped by the late Imam who struggled hard to make it a real fact, is the essential base and foundation of the Islamic system.

We are all obliged to protect and defend it whenever necessary.

The late Imam and his colleagues have not made a social contract with certain individuals. people loved them as much as they felt their commitment to the revolution and its sublime goals. In this regard the late Imam said:

''I have often declared that I have no special relationship with anyone. My relation with individuals depends on their appropriate behavior in defense of Islam and the party of Allah. This is one of the subtle pillars of the Islamic republic's policy.''

If we cast a glance on the revolution's history we will learn a valuable lesson. The young generation considers itself in service to the Imam, listens to his words and obeys his orders. The late Imam said:

''.... The other point I do mention here is related to my love and concern for the young generation. I want them to benefit from the committed Muslim leaders through their spiritual drive. They should consider themselves in need of their help always and at all times.

''The committed religious leaders throughout history and at crucial times have struggled hard, with hope and loving care to nurture Muslim generations of religious commitment. They have been the foreigners, the shields that protect the people against calamities.

''They mounted gallows, suffered deprivation, prison and exiles. They were the target of oppression and accusations more than others. They blew hope in the people's life and defended their rights at a time when most of the intellectuals lost all hope in fighting the tyrant.''

Struggle and Martyrdom

Martyrdom and Jihad (struggle for the sake of the religion) besides Islamic values have been revived during the Imam's era.

The Holy Qoran declares the virtue of those who struggle for the sake of religion vis-a-vis those who refrain. The verse says:

''.... *And Allah shall grant to the strives above the holders back, a mighty reward*''. *(4:45)*

Those who rush to playa role in the struggle, sacrifice their lives and properties, their office, take to the streets at crucial moments, defend and protect the revolution, have the priority and come at the head of all.

They suffer hardships and are the pioneers in the battlefields. They stand against the hypocrites, hence, they should enjoy the high office and respect. They cannot be considered the same as those who joined the revolution after its victory. They never sacrificed anything for it, they only harvested the fruits.

They never ask: ''What have we offered to the revolution?''. Instead they ask: ''What has the revolution achieved for us?''

It is quite right that others also had a role in setting up the Islamic system, yet this cannot be considered on account of the combatant forerunners and the martyrs. In this regard the late Imam often referred to the revolutionary guard (*basij*) saying, ''I do kiss the hands of the liberation forerunners, one by one. I know that if the Islamic authority is heedless of your role, they will suffer from the Divine punishment.''

In another occasion he confirms that the survival of the victorious revolution is in the continual presence of the *basij* in the political arena. He said:

''Through your support and help the Islamic authority can achieve a secured life and peace and freedom for all those thirsty for truth and justice, away from America and the Soviet Union.

''Your presence can destroy the roots of hostility towards Islam at all levels.''

The late Imam considers the only means of halting the American and Soviet influence is through the presence of the *basij* in the theological centers, the universities and the government administrations.

The *basij* are ready to die for the sake of Islam's survival. They who suffered hardships for years for this sublime goal, can perceive the great sacrifice of the *basij* and their role in protecting the revolution. The Imam declared his reason to all by saying:

''I do say again to the people and those in authority, that they should differentiate between those who struggled hard through the wartime (of the Iraqi-imposed war) and those who under various pretexts refrained from the Divine duty and kept back others from doing their duty through their attitude towards the Muslim combatants. Those should not be allowed to return to the arena. They are the ignorant and short-sighted of past era, who made no show during the years of struggle.

''Do not let those forerunners of the struggle and martyrdom be lost and forgotten in their daily life concerns.''



Protection of the Oppressed

Throughout history, the prophetic mission has been to protect the oppressed, defend the deprived and to confront those who hoard wealth. It is impossible to see a prophet socially engaged in serving the rich and the wealthy, but the poor and the deprived.

The wealthy are a class usually isolated from the other social classes. They are the arrogance who demand special privileges and argue with the prophets—in the Holy Qoran—to chase away the oppressed in order that they obey the messengers of Allah.

The prophets usually reject the arrogant' demand and launch war against them. The Divine mission has always been to serve the oppressed and fight the unjust rulers and tyrants.

The late Imam followed the prophetic drive and declared war of truth against falsehood, of poverty against riches, and of the oppressed against the oppressors who lack any human feeling and never suffer hardships. The Imam said:

''Whoever thinks that the arrogant powers, the capitalists and wealthy who never suffer the people's hardships, can be advised to join the liberation forces or help the combatants is the same as the one who grinds water in a grinder.

''A luxurious life cannot accept struggle and hardship, nor can worldly gains meet with gains of the hereafter. The contradictions can never join hands. Those who carry on in our device are only those who had suffered bitter poverty, deprivation and oppression. We should try hard to maintain our principle in defending the oppressed as much as possible.''

The late Imam strongly believed that those who take responsibility in the governments should be from among those who actually suffered hardship and oppression and struggled for their rights.

This is clear in his speech addressing the third round of election of Majlis members. In this regard he said:

''The brave Iranian people will be careful to give their votes to the committed Muslims who feel responsible to saving the people's cause, those who suffer poverty and hardship, and those who defend the poor in words and deeds, those who present the oppressed, those of pure belief...in brief, they are defenders of the pure Islam of the Prophet Mohammad (SAW).

The leader of the revolution was not concerned for Iran only but for all the oppressed and deprived of the world. He never allowed any move in favor of the catalysts and the arrogant. He

(Contd on Pg. 7)

Following is an excerpt of the political and religious testament of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini:

Imam's Final Discourse

Tehran Times Service

Regarding Muslims and the oppressed masses of the world:

"You should not sit back and expect to be given independence and freedom by the authorities at the helm of your country or by foreign powers. At least during the present century which has witnessed the gradual emergence of the big world-devouring powers in Muslim countries and in other [Third World] countries, we have observed or read in true history books that hardly any single government in Third World countries has been concerned with the freedom, independence and welfare of its own people, nor are they at the present time."

Regarding the complainers of the Islamic Revolution:

"To the writers, public speakers, intellectuals and obstructionists, complainers, and those driven against the Islamic Revolution by their own complexes, I say: Instead of spending your time doing things against the interests of the Islamic Republic, and instead of depleting your energy in acts of antagonism and in malicious thoughts, and in censuring the Majlis and the government--acts which serve to push your country into the fold of the superpowers--sit at a private place on a still night for self-examination before God, or before your own conscience if you do not believe in God, and discover your own latent motives which may lie in the subconscious of many men and which drive you into acting and speaking as you do."

Regarding the armed forces discipline:

"I enjoin the armed forces not to subscribe to any political party or group and keep themselves aloof of political games, adhering to their appropriate discipline. This applies invariably to all sectors of the armed forces, including the army, Law Enforcement Forces, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Basijis (mobilized forces) and other volunteers. Only then will they be able to maintain their military power and prevent in-fighting. The commanders, too, have a responsibility to prevent the people under their supervision from subscribing to political parties."

Regarding the use of foreign technology:

"Remember that as long as you extend an asking hand to foreigners for your needs in advanced technology, as long as you lead a beggarly life in the international community, you will not grow in your own innovative talents in technology. In the wake of economic sanctions against Iran you have witnessed that the same Iranians who used to judge themselves as being unable to do many of the things previously done solely by foreign workers, who had previously been told that they would not be able to turn the wheels of the country's industries, who distrusted their own inherent capacity, eventually ventured to rely on their own talents, thereby responding to the needs of the armed forces and their various factories and plants."

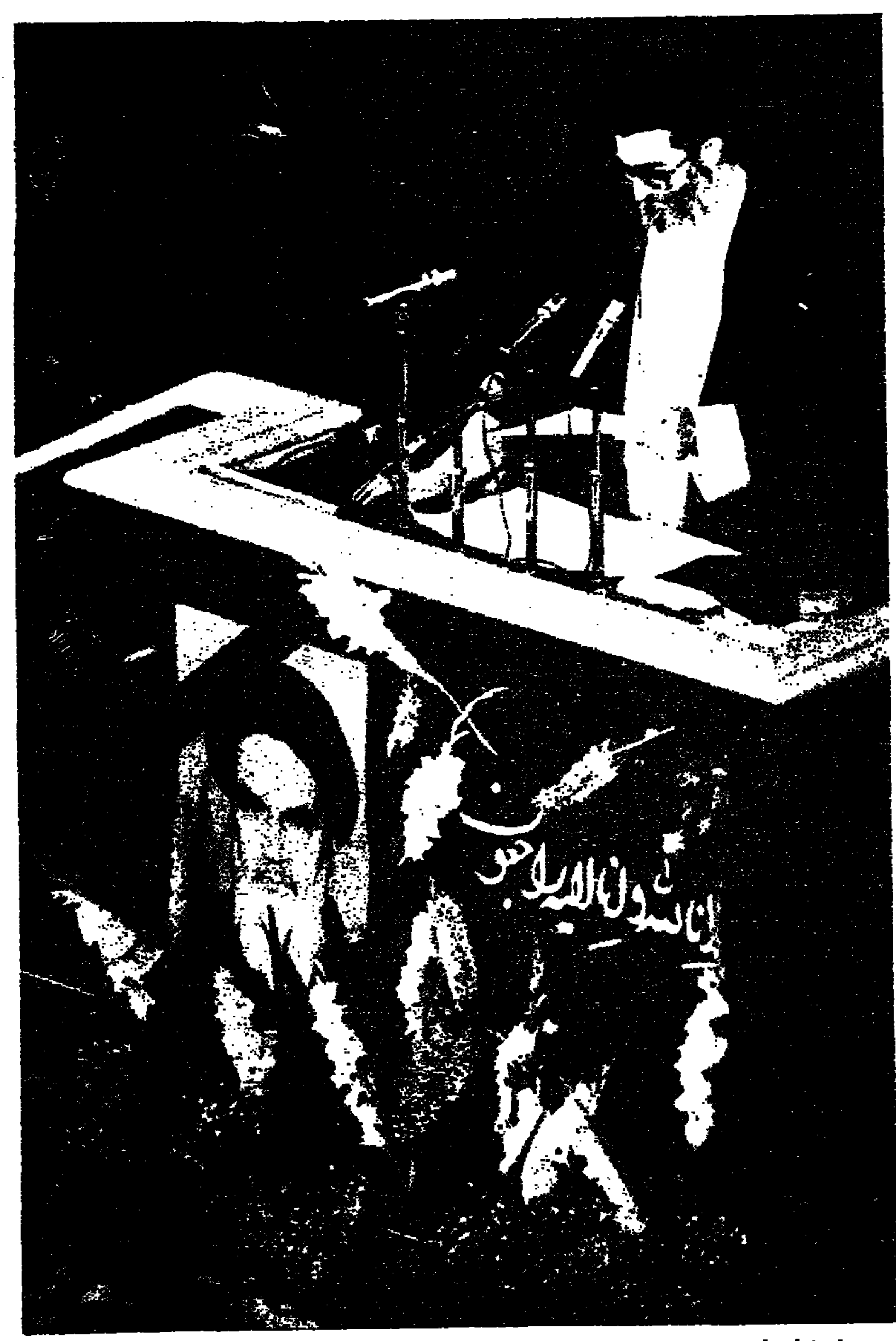
Regarding government officials:

"My exhortation to our government officials and their future successors is: You and the employees of government ministries earn a living by receiving salaries from a budget which belongs to the nation. Therefore, you should be serving the people, especially the oppressed masses. To act irresponsibly is religiously sinful, which might, God forbid, incite divine wrath."

Regarding Majlis representatives:

"I also call on present and future members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) to refuse a vote of confidence to anyone who is found to be deviate and who has reached the Majlis through fraudulent means. Ensure that not a single subversive and foreign-inspired element will find his way to the Majlis. I also advise the officially-recognized religious minorities to learn a lesson from the Pahlavi Dynasty and elect their representatives from among individuals committed to their own religion and to the Islamic Republic, those who are not influenced by world-devouring foreign powers, not inclined to atheistic, deviate or eclectic schools of thought."





The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, recites the late Imam Khomeini's last will in the Majlis.

MY EXHORTATION TO OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THEIR FUTURE SUCCESSORS IS: YOU AND THE EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES EARN A LIVING BY RECEIVING SALARIES FROM A BUDGET WHICH BELONGS TO THE NATION. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD BE SERVING THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE OPPRESSED MASSES. TO ACT IRRESPONSIBLY IS RELIGIOUSLY SINFUL, WHICH MIGHT, GOD FORBID, INCITE DIVINE WRATH.

IMAM KHOMEINI (RA)

Imam Khomeini in the Words of Ayatollah Khamenei



Tehran Times Service

Late Imam Khomeini was a unique personality amongst the great men and leaders of the world. Seven years have passed since his demise, which filled the hearts of his followers with sorrow.

Undoubtedly the sun of his unique personality will shine forever in history and his thoughts will illuminate the hearts of the Truth-seekers.

He is not amongst us any longer. As Grand Ayatollah Khamenei says: "In the past we used to ask for his guidelines regarding all problems and he used to help us in all aspects... but today who can know the depth of our sorrow?"

How can we tolerate the world without Khomeini? What could reduce the bitterness of this loss? Only a leader who would follow his path could bring calmness to our hearts. Now who deserves to show us the path of Khomeini, a person who has often said: "Our path is the path of Imam Khomeini; we will not deviate from the declared principles of the revolution."

Honest Servant of God

The quality in the late Imam which made him a unique and prominent personality amongst men was his servitude to God. This quality gave him such a greatness that everything except God seemed inferior to him. He had yielded before the power of God. He believed that absolute power and absolute perfection could be found in him. In this regard Ayatollah Khamenei stated: "He was an honest servant of God..."

The Leader of the revolution also said: "Neither I nor any other individual in the Islamic Republic can compare himself with the father and the founder of the Islamic Republic and revolution, or can achieve the state of the Imam's extraordinary personality."

Glorifier of Islam and Savior of the Nation

The Imam, well aware of the endless power of Islam and the Muslims which had its origin in divine power, laid the foundation of a government based on religion, spirituality and moral values. This came when all the political powers have been seeking to isolate and separate religion from politics.

With his revolt based on the power of Islam, the people and reliance upon God, he gave honor to Islam and hoisted the banner of the Qoran in the world. The enemies of Islam hatched various conspiracies in order to portray the pure Islam of the Prophet Mohammad (SAW) in a converse manner, but he saved the nation from foreign domination and gave it a new personality and pride. Imam Khomeini gave a new hope to the oppressed everywhere.

Ten Years of Leadership

Imam was the honest servant of God with belief in the power of God and reliance on the power of Islam and the people. He gave honor to Islam and liberated the nation from the clutches of the power-mongers. He encouraged people to be the sincere servants of God. Throughout ten years of guiding and leading the people, Imam wholly safeguarded the revolution.

Ayatollah Khamenei describes these ten years as: "These ten years are unique times; ten years equal to the Prophet's (SAW) stay in Medina.

"When the Messenger of God (the Prophet) arrived in Medina, the people came to welcome him, and the same happened here when the Imam came—everybody came to welcome him... "One should learn a lesson from each second of this revolution and each word of the Imam. These times will not be repeated. For ten years, the Imam guided and administered the Islamic republic out of huge storms and trials.

"His ten years of leadership is very valuable and unforgettable for us."

Useful Lessons

Imam Khomeini, the father, leader and the teacher of the Iranian nation, taught us several lessons throughout his ten years of leadership.

The Leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei added, "I, am myself a pupil, obedient and a follower of the Imam. I had the chance to be with the great leader throughout all these ten years until his demise. I have experienced his divine leadership.

"His words, thoughts, advice, orders and behavior were all great lessons for his followers.

"His lessons were not the ones he taught us in the theological school. His greatest lessons taught to us were those we learnt throughout these ten years of leadership."

Now that unique personality (the Imam) has brought about another revolution with his demise. Over ten million brokenheart lovers gathered around his dead body. Hundreds of millions of people all over the world mourned his passing away. Who is not familiar with our beloved Khomeini? Now the hearts are certain and calm, for the society is guided by a great man, Ayatollah Khamenei, who has learnt many lessons from the late Imam.

On the anniversary of the Imam's demise, let us raise our hands towards God and pray: "O God! protect the Imam's heritage and fulfil his aims and goals..."

> **"His ten years of leadership is very valuable and unforgettable to us." Ayatollah Khamenei**

Letters to the Imam and Glimpses of His Life

Tehran Times Service

Imam's Simple Life-Style

Imam Khomeini's deliverance and his simple life-style are specially amazing to those who are familiar with the life-style of those arrogant governors who are bound to the materialistic life and live in the fabulous—but evil palaces.

One day, a group of foreign reporters were visiting the Imam's house in Jamaran. A young reporter who looked like an American, was very astonished by the sight of the Imam's house. Although he was seeing everything through his own eyes, still he couldn't believe what he saw. So, he looked for someone who could answer his questions and solve his puzzle. He saw me just then and started speaking to me, but I couldn't understand him. At last, he found a translator.

There was a trellis over the small courtyard, over which was spread a piece of tarpaulin as a protection against the heat of summer and the cold of winter. He asked if there was any electrical charge in the trellis. Then he asked: "Is this really the Imam's house?" When I told him the fact, he was more surprised. "You should also know that this house is rented and it doesn't belong to the Imam". Now, he was even more astonished. And although it seemed he couldn't believe it, he was strongly impressed. His eyes were covered with tears, and he was so touched as if a new horizon had appeared before his eyes. He expressed his gratitude to me for what he had come to know, but there was no need for words.

In fact, any one of the Imam's characteristic, which are the ones of Islam, and manifestation of *Imamat* and leadership in an Islamic government, is enough to head intelligent and broad-minded people to the truth of Islam and the enlivening Islamic system.

The Request of a German Girl

Sending a letter to Imam, a German schoolgirl had asked him for his photo as well as a few pieces of advice, which she had asked to be written on the card attached to her letter.

Imam wrote her the following lines:

"In the name of God

Try to be helpful to your society.

Try not to be influenced by the satanic powers.

Try to be a conscientious person.

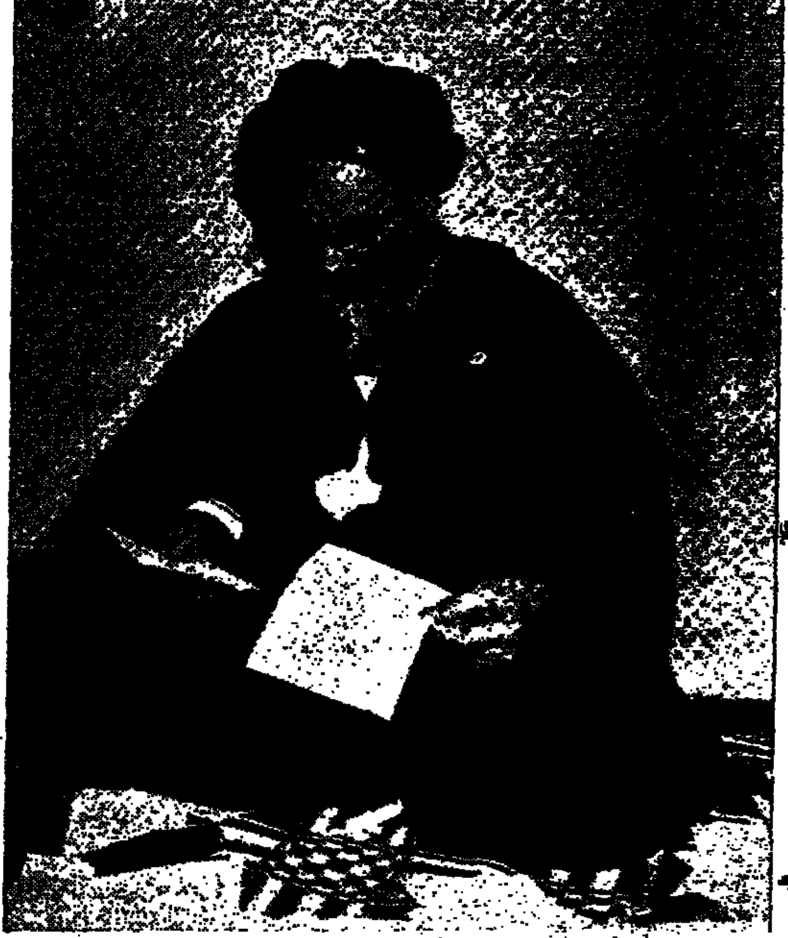
May God bless you,

Ruhollah al Mousavi al Khomeini".

Imam's Punctuality

Although Imam Khomeini had so many responsibilities and lots of work to do, everything in his life was very well-ordered. He did his work without any haste or delay, and he never left today's work for tomorrow. Everything was in its own place and if there was any item which had to be given back to its owner, he arranged its delivery at the shortest delay.

It happened frequently, whenever the late Imam needed a religious book or anything like that, we provided it and presented it to him. His first task on the next day, would be to give back the book to its owner, although it was a great pleasure for anyone of us to present one of our books to the Imam.



Imam and Up-to-Date News

The late Imam took full advantage of all sources and channels available, firstly in order to be informed of all the news and events going on in Iran and abroad, and secondly in order to find out the different dimensions of the news. The news channeled to him could be classified as: confidential, non-confidential, internal and foreign, and of friend and enemy.

In addition to the information received at meetings, or from open letters from all different factions, revolutionaries or even counterrevolutionary, all confidential bulletins of Islamic Republic organizations were used by him. I remember in the first days, when the Friday bulletin was sent to the Imam, attached with Saturday's. The Imam asked the reason for the delay. We got in contact with the news agency and thereafter, the Friday bulletin was sent on the same day it was published.

Among the bulletins, the Imam was mostly interested in a bulletin which was prepared once in a few days, and contained the translation of the most important articles and commentaries from foreign press. The Imam also used to regularly listen to the foreign radios, as well as the IRIB news. And if there was any change in the time, or frequency of any one of those radio stations, he was the first to notice and inquire about it. Once I was asked why he couldn't tune in to one of those stations. I immediately made contact with one of the news gathering organs and asked about it, but the news technician knew nothing of the change, although he was an official in charge of such affairs. The Imam had known what was going on much before him.

A Girl Is Even Better

Mr. Rahimian, a member of the Imam's office writes said about one of his memories about the late Imam:

"In the winter of 1984, God gifted me a daughter. A few days after the birth, her mother brought her to the Imam's home. Finishing my routine work with him, I left the Imam's room to bring our newly born child to the Imam.

I was mounting up the stairs when the Imam just caught sight of me. Smiling, he permitted me in. Before I could say a word, he said: "Is it your own child?" I replied: "yes".

Stretching his hands he took the baby hugging it close and asked me: "Is it a girl or a boy?" I said a girl. The Imam hugged the baby and kissed her forehead and said: "A girl is even better. A girl is even better. A girl is even better".

Then, he recited a prayer in her ears and asked me her name. I said: "We wish that you select a name for her". Without any hesitation, the Imam said: "Fatemeh is a very good name. Fatemeh is a very good name. Fatemeh is a very good name...."

Imam, a Most Trustworthy Tenant

It is interesting to note a case related to the Imam's tenancy. The owner of the house in which the Imam lived, was one of his followers and those ardently in love with him. In the man's opinion Imam's presence in his house, was the greatest ever pleasure and honor in his life.

However, the Imam obliged himself to follow all religious

(Contd on Pg. 7)



Father! O Standard Bearer of Islam

Tehran Times Service

Below is a part of an article by the late Hojjatoleslam Seyed Ahmad Khomeini about his noble father, Imam Khomeini.

"Mohammad is no more than an Apostle: many were the apostles that passed away before him; if he died or were slain, will you then turn back on your heels? If any did turn back on his heels, not the least harm will he do to God.."

Qoran 3:144

I deem it proper to start this writing with a phrase from the Imam's message addressed to his cleric sons: "The agony that your old father has suffered at the hands of his petrified band outweighs all other pains and hardships."

Indeed, the painful purport of the above statement constitutes the subject of this essay, written at the request of a number of the Imam's lovers in the Women's Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran. And at a time when I bear the bitter memories of the separation, not by day or hour, rather incessantly and render bearable the formidable weight of his departure and ascension upon myself with the hope of continuing his path.

In his writing, I shall make an effort to review one of the unmentioned and unknown aspects of the life of the Imam. However, I should first admit that talking and writing about the essential dimensions of the Imam is too difficult a task. He was the one, who during the alienation era of Islam, succeeded to revive God's religion, restore the lost honor and grandeur of the Muslims, cause considerable insomnia for the owners of power, wealth and weapons, and the one who made the old wish of the Muslims come true.

He was the one who lay the foundations of the holy order of the Islamic Republic.

The late Imam thought of nothing but God and the implementation of divine tasks. He feared none but God and regarded government as a tool, as Imam Ali (AS) did for maintaining the sovereign rule of God's religion and restoring to the oppressed their rights usurped by the oppressors. Expecting a sketch of the total characteristics of the Imam, either by the pen or tongue, from an individual like me is tantamount to looking to a pool in the hope of getting the sight of the sea.

If we have a sound appraisal of the process of the revolution, from its inception through its political victory and subsequent stages until the ascension of its founder, then we can cherish the hope of continuing his path.

Although the love of our people to the Imam is deeply rooted in their religious beliefs, the knowledge and awareness of the majority of Iranians and of many other Muslims is keyed only to two aspects of the Imam's life after his comeback to Iran: religious jurisprudence and consultative authority, and his combat and political dimension.

Many of other highly active and eventful dimensions of the life of the Imam, particularly those relating to political and social aspects (before the Imam's return prior to 5th of May 1963) have remained unknown not only to the public but even to the students and clergy in the theological centers.

After the Imam's return and the formation of the Islamic government, the plots of the enemies of the revolution were so broad that the true followers of the Imam had to devote all their time and efforts to foil them.

At any rate, it is up to the dedicated writers, artists and historians of the revolution to clean the bleeding face of the history of the revolution in an appropriate manner, and consider the cultural segregation of the generation that must carry the banner of this holy movement, but has not been involved in the past affairs of the revolution, as a serious danger.

Let us not forget the Lord's warning as quoted before: "If he died or were slain, will you then turn back on your heels? If any did turn back on his heels, not the least harm will be do to God..."

Although God's admonishment is not confined to the time of the Prophet (SAW), it is clear that the audience of the divine words were the Muslims who had attended the era of the Prophet (SAW) and hand-received God's religion directly from his holiness.

Indeed, bitter realities and the danger of their occurrence has existed, and still exist, for all revolutions and movements, let alone being ignorant and unaware of the hardships of the journey and the heavy toil paid for reaching to present stage. These realities are: falling into daily routines and halting when halfway through; being affected by the enchantments of the devils; becoming disappointed with the objectives and ideals and forgetting the toils suffered for their realization; deviating from the path, and returning to the ominous past.

If the younger generation who joins up with the revolutionary path of the Imam by regiments, the young students who enter the religious seminaries and all others who, from now on, assume responsibility for the perpetuation of the revolution, be not knowledgeable about the past, then there is the real danger of gradual return and deviation from principles in the tempestuous future events and the dusty atmosphere that may be created in the absence of Imam by the masterminds—who have been defeated by the Imam and the revolution.

In view of the above fact, an exposition of the real past conditions of the religious seminaries or theological centers is a prerequisite to understanding the grandeur of Imam's undertaking and the pains that he has suffered in order to get us to the present stage.

So we note that there was good reason why the Imam, while avoiding to enter discussions that ultimately concerned himself, repeatedly gave warnings (especially during the last few years of his life) about returning back to the mentality for the eradication of which years had been spent in hard work, suffering and sacrifice.

Our people and the future generations must know that their revolution did not come out victorious overnight and suddenly on the 22nd of Bahman, 1357 (11, 2, 79). It is not true that the Imam had made an uprising in 1341-42 (1962-63) that was defeated in a couple of days with everything coming to an end and that the 1357 victorious revolution was a new opportunity.

The political victory of the revolution on the 22nd of Bahman was based on the triumphs and victories that the Imam had in his hard, long struggle against the stupid mentally-petrified pseudo-clerics who had traded away their faith.

Revolting against these elements was considerably more difficult than political revolution. It was necessary to break up the spells of mental stagnation and petrification: perverted conceptions about Islam that had penetrated deep into religious seminaries. The garb of Islam was to be washed clean of the smears and false embellishments that had settled on it with the dust of centuries of alien invasion, so that clear teachings of Mohammad (SAW) could be advanced to the present thirsty and tired generation.

Every page of the painful history that the Imam has gone through until his great cultural revolution accomplished is replete with bitterness and accusations of his adversaries. Those pages have unfortunately remained unread and unknown to date.

Despite the numerous cases of hardships, Imam finally succeeded in preserving the red banner of uprising and challenge through the current of events and in hoisting it clear across the Islamic Republic of Iran in the glorified arenas of the blissful Ten-Day Dawn festivals and the 22nd of Bahman (Feb 11, 1978). Standing up to and resisting tyrants, bullies and ruffians of the former regime cannot be compared with fighting scores of issues that had been raised and posed, opposing the true Islamic thinking.

These are acts the acceptance of which requires knowledge of the way the Imam smoothed the long, thorny and arduous road of the revolution.

It is not true to say that Imam Khomeini rose up all of a sudden without prior background in 1963 and cried out against oppression but with the slaughter or suppression of his supporters he went to live and teach in exile as *Marja* of the Muslims and, returned to Iran 15 years later to form a government.

The Imam needed a real cultural revolution to break down the obstacles including the petrified minds of the pseudo-clerics so as to pose the formation of the Islamic government as a major divine duty in the seminaries and the theological centers. He rose up to the task in conditions which he has described:

"A point that must be clarified for the young seminary students is this: How could a number of people decide, in spite of the intensive influence of stupid pseudo-clerics and illiterate morons, to rise and invest their honor and lives in order to save Islam, the theological school and seminaries? Conditions were not like today, anyone who was unwilling to fight would be forced out of the arenas under the threats and pressures of the pseudo-clerics."

In another passage he addresses the clergy saying: "Certainly the real fighting the clergy suffered most by was the tongue-lashings, harassments and innuendos of pseudo-clerics. Do not think that only strangers accused the clergy of dependence (on foreign elements) and paganism.

The blows of ignorant clerics and of clerics allied with foreign elements have been and are much more effective than the blows received from strangers. If at the start of the challenge of Islam you dared to call the Shah a traitor, and immediate reply would be "He is a Shia!

A number of retrogressive pseudo-clerics declared all things taboo or *haram* (religiously forbidden) and no one could dare stand up and oppose them.

The heartaches that your old father has suffered by acts of these petrified bands have been more backbreaking than the burdens and pressures brought down upon him by others. When the slogan of the separation of religion and politics was raised, in the logic of the ignorant religious jurisprudence was said to mean immersion or submersion in individual personal affairs and decrees; consequently, the jurisprudents were not allowed to step out of the confinements of this circle and interfere in politics and government affairs.

In social intercourse the foolishness of the cleric was deemed as excellence.

In spite of some individuals, the clergy was subject to respect and appreciation only when their stupidity was all too apparent and observable, otherwise a clever and diplomatic clergyman surely had something up his sleeve and on mind.

Learning foreign languages was blasphemy. Learning philosophy or mysticism was regarded paganism and sinful.

However, Almighty God obliged the Muslims and the clergy by preserving the true grandeur of these centers.

The believing, faithful scholars or ulema (religiously trained scholars) were educated in these theological or seminary centers but they parted lines with others."

The young student-clerics, in the seminaries as well as our young revolutionary generation must know the conditions in which their revolution was first conceived. That is, they must know about the hardships which the Imam and his disciples withstood so that Islam could be restored to the life of the society.



A Call to Divine Unity

Tehran Times Service

Letter of Imam Khomeini, the great leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the former Soviet Union.

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful
Your Excellency Mr. Gorbachev,

Chairman of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics With due wishes for the happiness and prosperity of Your Excellency and the people of the Soviet Union.

Since your assumption of office there has been the impression that Your Excellency, in analyzing world political events, particularly those pertaining to the Soviet Union, have found yourself in a new era of reassessment, change and confrontation; and your boldness and initiative in dealing with the realities of the world is quite likely to bring about changes that would result in upsetting the equations of power dominating the world. I have therefore found it necessary to bring certain matters to your attention.

Even if your new approach and decisions are merely used as a means to overcome the party crisis, and to solve some of the problems confronting your people, your courage in reappraising a school of thought that has for decades enchained the revolutionary youth of the world behind its iron curtain is indeed worthy of praise.

If, however, you are considering taking a further step forward, the first thing that will ensure your success is that you re-evaluate your predecessors' policy of obliterating God and religion from society, a policy that has no doubt given the heaviest blow to the Soviet people. Rest assured that this is the only way whereby world problems can be dealt with realistically.

Of course it is possible that as a result of wrong economic policies of former Communist authorities, the Western world, an illusory heaven, will appear to be fascinating; but the truth lies elsewhere. If you hope, at this juncture, to cut the economic knots of socialism and communism by appealing to the center of the Western capitalism, you will—far from remedying any ill of your society—commit a mistake which the later generations should make up for.

For, if Marxism has come to a deadlock in its social and economic policies, capitalism has also bogged down, in this as well as in other respects though in a different form.

Mr. Gorbachev,

Reality must be faced. The main problem confronting your country is not one of private ownership, freedom and economy; your problem is the absence of true faith in God, the very problem that has dragged, or will drag, the West to vulgarism and an impasse. Your main problem is the prolonged and futile war you have waged against God, the source of existence and creation.

Mr. Gorbachev,

It is clear to everybody that from now on communism will only have to be found in the museums of world political history, for Marxism cannot meet any of the real needs of mankind. Marxism is a materialistic ideology and materialism cannot bring humanity out of the crisis caused by a lack of belief in spirituality the prime affliction of the human society in the East and the West alike.

Mr. Gorbachev,

You may have not in theory turned your back on certain aspects of Marxism—and may continue to profess your heartfelt loyalty to it in interviews—but you know that, in practice, the reality is not so.

The leader of China struck the first blow to communism and you have struck the second, and the final.

Today we have no such thing as communism in the world. I earnestly call on you, however, not to get trapped, while tearing down the walls of Marxist illusions, in the prison of the West and the Great Satan. I hope you will attain the honor of wiping the filth of 70 years of communist aberration from the face of history and of your country.

Today those allies of yours that are genuinely concerned about their homelands and people are no longer willing to sacrifice their subterranean and surface resources to keep alive the myth of the success of communism, an ideology whose din of collapse has already the ears of their children.

Mr. Gorbachev,

When after 70 years the call, "Allah is Great" and the testimony to the prophethood of the seal of the prophets, (peace be upon him and his posterity), were heard from the minarets of the mosques in some of your republics, all the followers of the pure Mohammadan Islam were moved to tears out of ecstasy.

Therefore, I have found it necessary to remind you to reflect once again on the materialistic and theistic world views. Materialists consider sense to be the sole criterion of knowledge and are of the opinion that whatever cannot be known through the senses falls outside the realm of knowledge.

They identify existence with matter and consider as nonexistent anything that has no material body. Inevitably, they regard the world of the unseen—God Almighty, Divine Revelation, Prophethood and the Resurrection—as mere fiction.

On the other hand, theists consider both sense and reason to be the criteria of knowledge, and maintain that whatever can be known through reason lies within the realm of knowledge, although it is not perceptible. To theists, therefore, existence is inclusive of both the unseen and the manifest. For a thing to exist it is not necessary to have a material body.

In the same way that a material thing depends on an incorporeal thing, sensor perception is dependent on rational perception.

The Holy Qoran reprobates the fundamentals of materialistic thought and, addressing those who say: "We shall never believe in thee until we see God manifestly", proclaims: "Vision comprehends Him not, and He comprehends all vision; and He is the Knower of mysteries, the Aware". I should not like to present here Qoranic arguments concerning Divine Revelation, Prophethood and Resurrection which from your point of view are debatable.

In fact, I do not wish to entangle you in the twists and turns of philosophical arguments particularity those of Islamic philosophy. I will content myself by presenting one or two simple, intuitive examples of which even politicians can avail themselves.

It is self-evident that matter, whatever its nature, has no awareness of self.

Consider a stone statue: each side is ignorant of the other side, whereas human beings and animals, we clearly observe, are aware of their surroundings. They know where they are, and have some idea of what goes on around them.

There must be, then, an element in men and animals that transcends matter and is separate from it, living beyond the life of matter. Intrinsically, man seeks to attain absolute perfection. He strives, as you well know, for absolute power over the world; he is not attached to any power that is defective.

If he has the entire world at his command, he naturally feels inclined to have command of another world once he is informed of its existence. No matter how learned a person may be, if he learns of some other branch of knowledge, he naturally feels inclined to attain mastery of that branch of knowledge also.

Mr. Gorbachev,

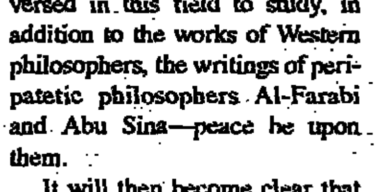
When after 70 years the call, "Allah Is Great" and the testimony to the prophethood of the Seal of the Prophets, (peace be upon him and his posterity), were heard from the minarets of the mosques in some of your republics, all the followers of the pure Mohammadan Islam were moved to tears out of ecstasy.

Therefore, there must be some Absolute Power and Absolute Knowledge to which man is attached. It is God we all seek, although we may not be aware of it. Man strives to attain Absolute Truth, so that he may be annihilated in God.

Basically, the desire for eternal life that is inherent in every individual is proof of the existence of an eternal world to which destruction cannot find its way.

Should Your Excellency desire further information on these matters, you may command those scholars of yours who are well-





versed in this field to study, in addition to the works of Western philosophers, the writings of peripatetic philosophers Al-Farabi and Abu Sina—peace be upon them.

It will then become clear that the law of causation on which all knowledge depends is a rational; not sensible law Likewise, perception of general laws and concepts on which all reasoning rests is reached not by means of sensory experience but through rational argument.

Your scholars may further refer to the Ishraqi theosophy of Suhrawardi, and explain to you that the flesh, as well as any other material thing, is in need of Pure Light which has no material entity, that man's witnessing of his own truth does not take place by means of any sense organ.

You may also have the scholars familiarize themselves with transcendental philosophy of Molla Sadra (may Allah be pleased with him and resurrect him with the prophets and the pious), so that it may become clear that the nature of knowledge is different from the nature of matter and that intellect, far removed from matter, cannot be restricted by the laws governing matter.

I won't tire you further by mentioning the works of mystics, in particular Muhyid-Din-ibn-e-Arabi. If you wish to make yourself acquainted with the doctrines of this celebrated mystic, send a number of your brilliant scholars, who are well-versed in this field, to Qom so that, by reliance on God, they may, after a couple of years, glimpse the depth of the delicate stages of Gnostics which, will be impossible for them to acquire without making such a journey.

Mr. Gorbachev,

After mentioning these problems and preliminary points, let me call on you to study Islam earnestly, not because Islam and Muslims may need you but because Islam has exalted universal values which can bring comfort and salvation to all nations and remove the basic problems of mankind.

A true understanding of Islam may forever release you from the problem of Afghanistan and other similar involvements. We treat Muslims of the world as Muslims of our own country and will ever share in their destiny.

By granting certain liberties to some of your republics in matters pertaining to religious practices, you have shown that you no longer consider religion as the "opium of the people".

Indeed, how can Islam be the opium of the people, the religion that has made Iranians as firm as a mountain against superpowers? Is the religion that seeks the administration of justice in the world and man's freedom from material and spiritual shackles, the opium of the people?

Only that religion is the opium of the people that causes the material and spiritual resources of Islamic and non-Islamic countries to pass into the clutches of super- and lesser powers and that preaching religion is separate from politics. This, however, can not be called a true religion; it is what our people call "an American religion".

In conclusion, I declare outright that the Islamic Republic of Iran as the greatest and most powerful base of the Islamic world, can easily fill the vacuum of religious faith in your society. In any case, our country, as in the past, honors good neighborhood and bilateral relations.

Peace be upon those who follow the guidance.

Ruhullah al-Musavi al-Khomeini

15th of Khordad: Peak of Imam's Leadership in Theological Schools



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — In an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*, Hojjatoleslam Mohtashami recalled memories of events on the 15th of Khordad (1342) and Imam Khomeini's role in such events.

He described the 15th of Khordad as the crucial test of Imam's leadership of the nation and his having passed the test with the highest honors.

Victory was not won in a day, the hojjatoleslam stressed, but took months of struggle before the Imam was able to lay the ground for the Islamic movement.

Hojjatoleslam Mohtashami recalls the measures taken by the Shah, starting in the year 1341 (1962), in an attempt to control the growing religious fervor—the eradication of Islam in the National Consultative Assembly and references to the Qoran as the Holy Book.

He said the U.S. was behind all such machinations.

Speaking of Imam's role in the crystallization of events, Hojjatoleslam Mohtashami said that the late Imam pursued the domestic and foreign issues of the country day by day.

"He (the Imam) summoned the Ulema and ordered them to go to all the cities and villages as his envoys, to acquaint both clergy and ordinary people of the Shah's ploys."

Mohtashami said the Imam told his envoys to prepare the nation for a long-term struggle against the Shah and plots of the U.S.

He stressed that Imam's role was not centered only on theological doctrine but that his outlook was much broader and included efforts to defeat the ploys of foreign enemies, increase the nation's capability and that of its theological schools.

"In short," he said, "the Imam was at the helm of a powerful front to topple the forces of tyranny and oppression."

Mohtashami went on to say that the Shah's circle of friends, who were interested in perpetuating his rule, were extremely scared of the Imam.

"They could not imagine that an orderly system with tremendous clout would be established in such a short time," he said.

He said representatives of the masses and clergymen throughout the country subscribed to the Imam's points of view which left the enemies fearing a great danger to their power.

"U.S. policymakers came to the conclusion that there was no way out of the dilemma except to remove the Imam," Hojjatoleslam Mohtashami said, adding that the Imam had profoundness of political and religious thought as to be a natural leader and one who convincingly unveiled the ploys of the enemies.

"This led them to conclude that if the Imam were alive they would not be able to achieve their ominous goals," Mohtashami said.

He said the U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East was to make Iran its base and that U.S. policymakers saw Imam Khomeini as an obstacle in the way of attaining this aim.

"The Imam confronted the U.S. and, therefore, it was left with no alternative but to arrest him, which they did on the 15th of Khordad."

Mohtashami said that events pointed to the arrest of the Imam as imminent and that the speech he made on the eve of Ashura, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), was just a pretext used by the Shah to rally support for his arrest and eventual hanging.

"News of the Shah's plan spread and the defense strategy established by the Imam started operating. His students in Qom, the clergymen of Qom Theological School and his loyal disciples called for a meeting in Tehran and strongly confirmed the Imam as their source of inspiration," Mohtashami said.

But, "According to the constitution, the brainchild of any movement could not be hanged, therefore the Pahlavi dynasty was faced with a tricky problem," he said.

He said the Shah was faced with the choice of either confronting the world of Islam and the Ulema or finding another way of removing the Imam.

"He imprisoned the Imam for two months. There were movements urging him to free the Imam (and) so the Shah proceeded to imprison the youth, businessmen, rural and urban people and clergymen who were behind the Islamic movement," he said.

"Under the circumstances," the hojjatoleslam said, "the ground was prepared for unrest to spread throughout the entire country."

He recalled that when Seyed Qasem Ghoreishee was martyred after being tortured by the Shah's agents, people demanded his body to be delivered and a magnificent and unprecedented funeral was held in Tehran after the Shah was forced to do so.

"The Imam was then in prison and all the while the people of Qom were looking for a pretext to publicly protest against the regime.

"A huge crowd gathered on Bouzarjomehri Street and hundreds of thousands of people carried the body in their shoulders. Suddenly they realized that Hojjatoleslam Mostafa Khomeini, the son of the late Imam Khomeini was among those in the crowd.

"They held him with their hands and tried to touch his turban and clothes. There was euphoria among the people and



the Shah's agents did not know how to react. Following this unprecedented funeral, the active presence of the Ulema in Tehran and the fact that the Imam was a source of inspiration was confirmed and the Shah was forced to free the Imam after two months of imprisonment," he said.

He said the Shah's agents tried their best to diminish the influence of the Imam in public and therefore tried to remove him. Submitting to their will, their representatives in Parliament capitulated and their wish was put into effect.

Further on Hojjatoleslam Mohtashami recalled a day when classes were dismissed because students were to attend a gathering to hear speeches made by the sources of inspiration, adding that he attended the gathering but only the Imam fully elaborated on the details of the capitulation law.

"The speeches of the followers of the Imam led to a wave of anti-American feelings and strengthened the anti-Shah movement, preparing the ground for the decision to deport the Imam on the 13th of Aban (1343)", he said.

(Contd from Pg. 4)

LETTERS...

rules and injunctions related to the matter of lessee and lessor.

I remember once they had scraped off the ceiling of Imam's room at three different points each as wide as 5x5 cm.

The reason was to weld reflectors into the iron bars of the ceiling to provide enough light for film-taking on special occasions such as Norouz message and official meetings.

The next morning when I received him, before saying anything, he became anxious and said: "What's this? Why have they done?" I said: "For providing enough light for film-taking". He paused a moment in glum silence, then said: "Why do they bring about such changes in the house without the owner's permission?"

Confronted by such a reaction by the Imam, they just canceled the work and repaired the ceiling.

When we left his room, Mr. Sane'i, who for over ten years was an advisor to the late Imam, told me: "I had never seen the Imam in such an offended and disturbed mood".

(Contd from Pg. 2)

IMAM KHOMEINI....

often reminded the authority that 'the essence of the revolution is hostility towards imperialism and arrogance...'

Such a revolution can spread awareness throughout the world and motivate all the oppressed to fight the oppressors. Eventually Iran is considered the pivot of all the world's revolutions. The late Imam perceived such an important role of Islamic Iran and never cared for the reaction of the capitalists and their agents.

He considered the Muslim Iranian people of this era as the best throughout history. He labeled them: 'the guardians of bounties, the pivot of all activities' and devoted his life to serve them.

He considered all the authoritative to be servants of the people, and devaluated them according to their best service for the people; through checking there life and living among them.

He considered defense of the oppressed as a pivot of social justice and its negligence meant negligence of Islamic social justice. He always confirmed that the economic policy should be in the interests of the oppressed. He said:

"The authority should give attention to the private sector activity, to be in favor of the oppressed people. It should never be as it was before in the control of a few who never knew Allah and controlled all the financial and commercial activities."

Advising the authority, he said:

"All the managers, officials, the system leaders and the spiritual jurists are obliged to mingle with the oppressed and the deprived. They should be their friends rather than of the rich and the wealthy. Such action is a source of the righteous' pride and ends all accusations and false claims. Praise be to Allah for such an essential insight is being achieved in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Renunciation of Worldly Pleasures

One of the Imam's significant features embodied in his life drive, confirmed in his speeches, was his renunciation of worldly pleasures and a thorough rejection of a luxurious life at all levels.

He addressed the whole nation especially the spiritual religious leaders and those in authority to abstain from a luxurious haughty life. He considered the country's independence on the pious life of all people and authorities. The system's survival and love of people for the leaders are related to their simple humble lives. He said:

"If you want to confront falsehood without the least fear; to defend truth; confront superpowers despite their sophisticated weapons and their satanic plots, then get used to a simple life and do not indulge in the wishes and hopes of wealth, office and position. Islamic human ethos cannot be protected through a life of luxury."

Hence such a kin of life should not spread amid the community, especially amid the authority, as it would hinder improvement of the living standard. It can be a factor leading to moral deterioration.

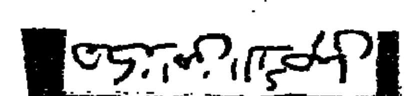
The majority of the authoritative can be from the oppressed class leading a simple life; yet the penetration of those who choose luxury, by all means, can seriously damage the revolution. The late Imam often warned:

"Those who lead a luxurious life in the palaces, who do not care for the deprived and suffering of the oppressed—the subtle pillar of the revolution—should not be allowed to get the important offices in the country. If they find their way to the top they will sell the country to bring the revolution to and end."

The spiritual religious leaders have the essential role in this regard. Their sublime office should be maintained. The Imam said:

"The Muslim religious leaders should never give in to the capitalists, landlords and the wealth hoarders. They should achieve knowledge through piety and self-exercise. They should attain a high status of morals and live a simple life casting away the luxurious of this world. They should reject humiliation and degradation."

This is only a drop in the ocean of concepts and values the Imam upheld of which most have not yet been mentioned but can be traced in his worlds and deeds.



Imam Khomeini in the Words of World Figures

Tehran Times Service

Imam Khomeini was a unique and prominent personality throughout his lifetime.

The following are the viewpoints of world figures regarding this great man of history, on the occasion of his sad demise.

"With a broken heart, I condole the uncompensable loss of Imam Khomeini, and mourn on this occasion as do all Iranians, Muslims and the oppressed of the world. Imam Khomeini's name will always remain in the history of Islam."

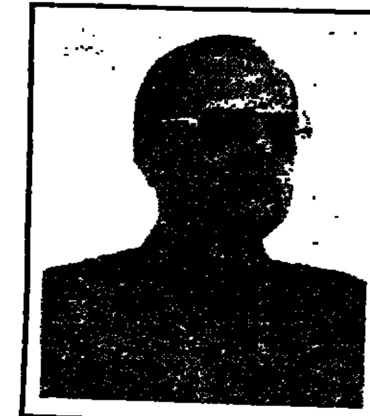


Colonel M. Qadhaffi,
Leader of Libya

"It is not strange that a great man appeared in Iran, for Mohammad (SAW) had foreseen that Iran would be the country of great revivers of Islam."
Dr. Ibrahim Solayman
Professor at the University of Nigeria

"Today I cannot express my heartfelt pain, but I would only say that, Oh God! send other (great) men for guiding us instead of those whom you have taken away from us."
Cardinal Ernesto
Prominent scholar of Nicaragua

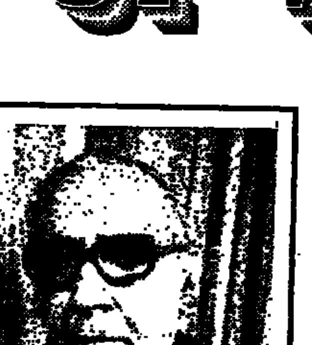
"Imam Khomeini was a great leader who, with the help of his faith and belief, led the Islamic revolution to victory."



Rajiv Gandi
Former Indian Prime Minister

"Iran lost a religious and great leader by the demise of Ayatollah Khomeini."
Venkata Raman
Former Indian President

"His Excellency was not only the leader of the people of Iran, he was also the great leader of the Muslim world. He was a brave personality, and possessed a deep, Islamic viewpoint. The honor he gave to Islam will remain for ever."



Ghulam Ishaq Khan
Former President of Pakistan

"We will remain the trustees of Imam Khomeini goals."



Allamah Fadhlollah
Prominent Lebanese scholar

"Woe be upon the month of (Khordad) June in which the holiest man of the present era and the father of the religions, Imam Khomeini, was taken away from us."



Nabih Beri
Head of Lebanese Amal Movement

"Imam Khomeini confronted the U.S. and the West and enjoyed great influence in the Third World, especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America."
Eric Hoglen
Professor at Johns Hopkins University, USA

"The great personality and lofty status of the leader of the revolution, his influence not only over the Muslim world but over all the political systems of the world should be appreciated."
Professor Hamid Algar
University of California, USA

"It is difficult to recognize the various aspects of Imam Khomeini's personality at the present; doing so requires years. Imam Khomeini brought about a basic change in the manner of struggle in the Third World against the economic, and ideological colonialism of the Western world, for achieving freedom and independence. The Imam's movement was important due to the fact that he proved that it is impossible for the Third World nations to achieve freedom and development without directly opposing the Western world's arrogant ideas."
Rafael Gomez Para
Spanish journalist

"With the foundation of the Islamic republic, compilation of the constitution and inspiration from Islamic commandments, Imam Khomeini destabilized the basis of oppression in the world. The Islamic ummah lost a valuable jewel."
M. Ali Khawarazm
Algerian journalist

"Imam Khomeini's demise brought about a great gap in the Muslim ummah, the filling of which may take centuries. Imam Khomeini sacrificed his life for reviving Islam."



Dr. Kalim Siddiqui
Former head of the Muslim Institute of London

"The theory that the masses in Iran were victims of the Islamic revolution was nullified by the presence of millions of people in the funeral ceremonies and the expression of their grief and sympathy on the occasion of their leader's demise. This participation revealed the extent of Ayatollah Khomeini's popularity."
Victor Malt
English author

"His Excellency was not only the leader of the people of Iran, he was also the great leader of the Muslim world. He was a brave personality, and possessed a deep, Islamic viewpoint. The honor he gave to Islam will remain for ever."
Ghulam Ishaq Khan
Former Pakistani President

"Imam Khomeini's struggles with the manifestations of the East and the West gave a new personality to the Iranian nation and taught the lesson of confrontation to millions of Muslims of the world."
Changiz Chandar
Turkish journalist and author

"We heard the news of the Imam's demise in Uganda with great sorrow. The late Ayatollah Khomeini was a great religious leader who inspired all the world."



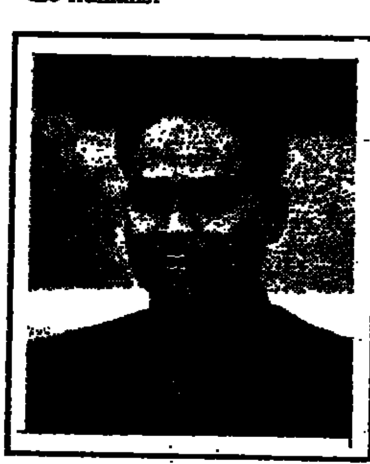
Museveni
Ugandan President

"I always pray for your leader and people. One should speak about what the Imam did in his country and a great part of the world with great respect and deep thought."



Pope John Paul II
Leader of the world's Catholics

"Iran lost a great leader whose lofty ideas and services in founding the Islamic Republic of Iran will never be forgotten by the Iranians."



H. Muhammad Ershad
Former Bangladeshi President

"The Imam's demise was a great loss not only for the Iranian nation, but the Muslim nation of Pakistan and all Muslim nations who mourned this loss. His path will certainly be followed by the Muslims."
Seyyed Faisal Saleh Hayat
Former Pakistani Trade Minister

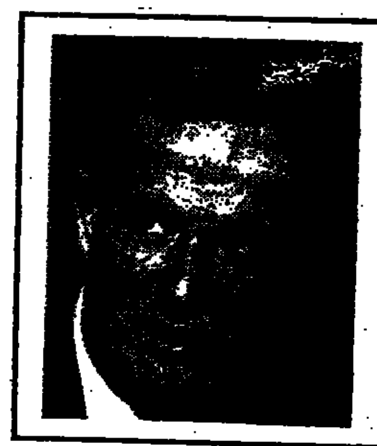
"Men with the greatness of Imam Khomeini are born once in as many centuries, therefore, his demise was an uncompensable loss for all the Muslims."
Nesar Usmani
Editor of Dawn Newspaper of Lahore

"We mourn the sad demise of a great scholar, a personality who led the Iranian nation in the path of one of the best revolutions. The victory of the revolution in Iran was based on religious and spiritual values and was inspired by Islamic thoughts and values which fulfilled the requirements of human society."



Robert Mogabe
President of Zimbabwe

"Imam Khomeini was the Imam of us all. Iran and the world of Islam lost a great scholar and a jurisprudent."



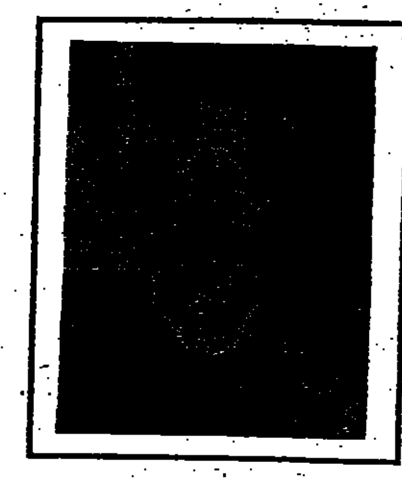
Hafez al-Assad
Syrian President

"The Iranian nation lost a great leader. This was a great and sorrowful event. I can well understand the extent of the Iranian Muslims' sorrow."



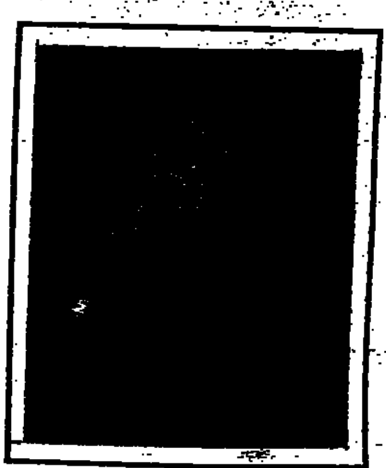
Javier Perez de Cuellar
Former UN Secretary-General

"Imam Khomeini hoisted the banner of struggle with colonialism and Zionism all over the world. Throughout my political and military life, no event except that of the news of the demise of the great leader, of the revolution, has shocked me."



General Talas
Syrian Defense Minister

"The Imam's orders are the orders of the Holy Qoran and he followed the Prophet (SAW). The Imam with this great Jihad and the powerful support shook the rule of the tyrants and filled the hearts of the arrogant powers with terror. He guided the oppressed and the deprived to the straight path and the path of liberation of Qods."



Ahmad Gabriel
Director General of People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine

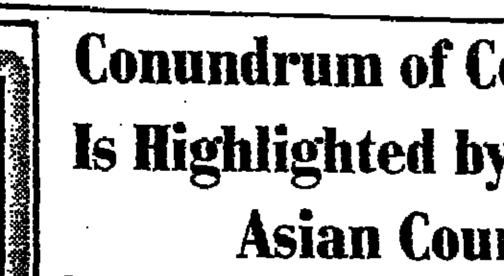
"Ayatollah Khomeini, in his holy movement against any kind of domination, and his confrontation with imperialism, performed great services. In this way he guaranteed the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, and, hence, the country was successful."



Kim Il Sung
Former North Korean Leader

"The great leader of the Islamic revolution gave us honor and revived Islam throughout the world."
Hojjatoleslam Vaezzadeh
Afghan combatant





Global Economy Briefs

BEIJING -- Atlanta-based United Parcel Service (UPS) has set up a one-million-dollar joint venture in China, Xinhua reported Friday.

TOKYO -- Japan's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in April rose by 0.3 of a percentage point from a month earlier to match an earlier record high of 3.4 percent, the Management and Coordination Agency said Friday.

ROME -- Italy's troubled state airline Alitalia plans a 3,300 billion lire ($2.13 billion) recapitalization over the next five years, it said Thursday.

WASHINGTON -- The downward revision in first quarter U.S. economic activity, attributed Thursday to a sharp contraction in inventories, could paradoxically herald a surge in growth in the next few months.

TOKYO -- Japan's Yamaha Corp., the world's top maker of musical instruments, announced Thursday that its group net profit in fiscal 1995 surged 77 percent to 9.43 billion yen ($87.5 billion).

MOSCOW -- Inflation in Russia is expected to fall to another record low of less than 1.5 percent a month, Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Thursday.

FRANKFURT -- Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, left key interest rates unchanged Thursday at its regular fortnightly policy-setting meeting.

SEOUL -- A pan-denominational Christian group in South Korea will push ahead with its campaign to send food aid to North Korea despite a government warning, a representative of the group said.

TOKYO -- A return of young women to the job market helped push Japan's unemployment rate back to record-high levels in April, with a rising number of graduates unable to find work pushing up the overall number, the Management Coordination Agency said Friday.

TOKYO -- Consumer prices in Japan rose 0.7 percent in April compared with March and 0.4 percent compared with a year earlier, mainly because of big rises in the cost of fresh food, the Management and Coordination Agency said Friday.

PARIS -- The two biggest French makers of luxury goods, Louis-Vuitton-Moet-Hennessy (LVMH) and Hermes, had an excellent year in 1995 and expect to repeat their good performance this year, they said.

PARIS -- The French economy experienced a mini-boom in the first quarter of the year, driven by a surge of consumer spending compensating for a slump caused by strikes in November and December.

BEIJING - A senior Western diplomat said on Friday he saw a 50-50 chance of an agreement being reached at Sino-U.S. talks next week aimed at averting a trade war over what the United States says is copyright piracy in China.

Conundrum of Competitivity Is Highlighted by Ranking of Asian Countries

PARIS (AFP) — Low labor costs and the relocation of industrial activities are two controversial subjects indirectly highlighted by a report on competitivity which put Singapore and Hong Kong at the top of world rankings this week.

At first sight the high score by many countries in Southeast Asia bears out the advantages of low expenditure by the public sector and of low labor costs.

And the report warned that some of these countries are providing their children with a better education than that available in some countries in Western Europe.

The authors of the report, the world economic forum, which organizes an annual international conference in Davos, noted some of the factors which strengthened competitivity.

These were: an open economy, strong investment, flexible labor markets and high domestic savings.

The listing, which was based on 155 variable factors, put Singapore first, Hong Kong second, Taiwan ninth and Malaysia tenth.

But the balance of factors is complex as shown by the ranking of Japan, in thirteenth place, and Thailand fourteenth, and China 36th.

The report noted that countries in Southeast Asia are beginning to catch up with standards in advanced industrialized countries, arguing that annual per capita income is higher in Singapore and Hong Kong than in Italy or Canada.

In terms of real personal incomes, Hong Kong and Singapore rank fourth and fifth in the world, but the report did not analyze how wealth was distributed through these populations.

Success in the region was based on open economies. Although many developing countries sought to make imports expensive, countries in Southeast Asia concentrated on exporting and welcomed direct investment by foreigners and had won a huge share of such transfers.

Some evidence has also emerged recently that manufacturing companies, in the sector of computers for example, consider production in proximity to markets to be more competitive than in distant, cheap-labor countries, because the costs and delays of transportation can result in the arrival of products which have been out-dated by fast-moving market trends.

Many industrial companies in Germany are seeking to escape from very high domestic labor charges and the high value of the mark. In some cases they turn to sites in Asia, and notably in China, but this is motivated in part by a need to produce close to the new and booming Asian markets.

Each year China attracts investment from abroad of 30-35 billion dollars.

Many German companies are investing heavily in Britain where, some analysis suggests, labor costs in some regions are lower than those in South Korea.

Britain was the highest ranked of leading European countries, being placed 15th, whereas the last country on the basis of competitiveness was Russia, after Brazil, Venezuela, Hungary, India and Poland.

By contrast the United States was placed fourth.

International Oil Consortium Sets Up in Georgia

TBILISI (AFP) — An international consortium of oil firms has opened an office in Tbilisi to oversee the construction of a $250-million pipeline to ship oil from the Caspian Sea to a Black Sea port, the consortium's president said.

Terry Adams, head of the Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC), told reporters that a subsidiary, the Georgian pipeline company, had been registered to oversee the Georgia project.

The consortium, led by British petroleum and the U.S. firm AMOCO, has an eight billion dollar contract to develop offshore oil fields in Azerbaijan.

The Georgian pipeline, based on an existing pipeline route, is one of two that the AIOC announced last October for "early oil" — limited quantities that should be produced from mid-1997.

The other route from the Caspian goes via war-torn Chechnya to the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiysk.

Adams said a tender for contracting the construction of the Georgian pipeline had already been submitted, and the actual construction tender would be announced in September.

The Georgian pipeline project is the country's first major foreign investment, and has been a major priority for the government of President Eduard Shevardnadze, who met Adams Tuesday.

The AIOC is also expected to announce the route for a much larger, "strategic" oil pipeline in 1997. Turkey and Russia have competing offers.

Adams said that any long-term decision must take into account Turkey's concerns about the dangers of increased tanker traffic in the Bosphorus straits.

Turkey proposes to pump oil overland to the Mediterranean, while Russia would ship it to the Black Sea.

Adams said that a forecast increase in demand among the Black Sea countries themselves could still make a high-capacity pipeline to Novorossiysk feasible for the medium-term, but "in the long-term a regional pipeline to the Mediterranean is almost inevitable."

"It's not a question of how, but of when," he said.

BP and AMOCO each have roughly 17 percent stakes in the AIOC.

Other shareholders include the Azerbaijani state oil company, U.S. firms Exxon, Pennzoil and Unical, Britain's RAMCO, Japan's Itochu, Norway's Statoil, Turkish Petroleum, Russia's Lukoil and Delta Nimir Khazar of Saudi Arabia.

SYDNEY, Australia (May 30): Trader Tim Cole reacts at the Sydney Futures Exchange as figures are released showing a sharp rebound in Australia's current account deficit just one day after news of unexpectedly high economic growth. The current account deficit jumped 66 percent in April to U.S. 1.6 billion, seasonally adjusted.

(AFP PHOTO)



UN Launches Probe as Senior Trade Official Suspected of Fraud

GENEVA (AFP) — The United Nations has launched a probe into suspected fraud by a senior official of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), a spokeswoman said.

The case, which the United Nations said is the first of its kind in UNCTAD, involves the falsification of documents and misappropriation of funds over several years, UNCTAD spokeswoman Carine Richard said.

The United Nations has not revealed the extent of the fraud, nor the identity of the official under suspicion, who has been on sick leave for several weeks.

Contrary to earlier reports, the official has not been suspended without pay. Under UN regulations, an official on sick leave can only be suspended once that leave is over.

According to informed sources, the fraud, in which only one person is implicated so far, relates to daily allowances and travelling expenses and involves at least $600,000.

The official, reportedly from Cuba, works in the personnel and finance section, the sources added.

Karl Paschke, UN under secretary-general for internal control, travelled urgently to Geneva to evaluate the situation and his experts will start their investigation next week.

UNCTAD secretary-general Rubens Recupero of Brazil has also launched his own internal inquiry, Richard said, and preventative measures have been taken to protect the organization from further damage.

In order to recover the funds, UNCTAD will lodge a judicial complaint in Geneva, Richard said.

According to initial reports from the inquiry, the money involved consisted of internal UN funds and not voluntary contributions from UNCTAD member states. The fraud was discovered by a member of the organization's secretariat who replaced his colleague during an illness.

UNCTAD has just held its main meeting, which take place every four years, in South Africa. The meeting is a forum for discussion on economic policy concerning notably the needs of developing countries.

Following the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) a year and a half ago, UNCTAD's role has been challenged, but the body has embarked on a series of reforms to develop functions which it considers complementary to those of the WTO.



Future Events

Monday, June 3

LUXEMBOURG - EU agriculture ministers hold special meeting expected to discuss whether to introduce a partial lifting of the EU's worldwide ban on British beef exports (to June 4).

PARIS - Parliamentary Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) holds session (to June 6).

TOKYO - Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos visits meets Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at imperial palace, and also Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (to June 6).

ISTANBUL - United Nations' Habitat II Conference on Urban Decay will deal with issues related to human settlements (to June 14). Encompasses issues debated in previous world summits — from environment summit in Rio to more recent fourth world conference on women in Beijing.

LUXEMBOURG - EU finance ministers meeting.

SINGAPORE - Canadian Ronald Wilson McCulloch, accused of drug trafficking, a capital offence, due in court for preliminary inquiry.

LUXEMBOURG - EU social affairs ministers meeting (to June 4).

Wednesday, June 5

VIENNA - OPEC's annual ministerial meeting begins usually runs for about four days.

DIJON, France - Franco-German heads of government summit (to June 6).

TEL AVIV - Ruling in trial of accomplices in assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

LISBON - U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry visits Portugal (to June 6).

WARSAW - Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro visits Poland (to June 6).

BARCELONA, Spain - Israeli Premier Shimon Peres expected to attend *Time* Inc's *Fortune* magazine global forum other participants include 150 CEOs including Nestle, Nokia, Siemens Nixdorf, Electrolux, Daewoo Securities and Alcoa (to June 7).

BRUSSELS - European Parliament mini-session (to June 6).

HELSINKI - Belgium's King Albert and Queen Paola visit Finland (to June 7).

LONDON - (Tentative) - National Criminal Intelligence Unit, the Police Department responsible for leading the fight against soccer hologanism, to hold final briefing before start of European championships.

BRUSSELS - European Commission holds regular weekly meeting.

North American Trappers Step Up EU Campaign

BRUSSELS, (Reuter) — A group of North American fur trappers, fearing European Union regulations could threaten their livelihoods and way of life, on Friday geared up their campaign to roll back proposed legislation.

The group began a week-long visit to Brussels and other European capitals on Friday to press its side of the trapping issue, arguing modern traps are humane and should be allowed.

The European Parliament wants an EU ban on all fur imports from countries which allow leg-hold traps, but the European Commission has urged a delay on regulations until international trap standards can be agreed.

Delegation leader Bruce Williams told a news conference the North American trapping industry — still reeling from a decimated fur trade brought about by a huge swing in environmental awareness — could fold entirely if the EU banned pelt imports.

Nearly 70 percent of North America's $1.5 billion annual fur crop is exported to Europe.

An EU ban on fur imports — due to come into effect last year — was postponed by the commission, the EU executive, until 1997 while various nations attempted to agree standards for traps.

Pregnant Mums Harm Baby by Smoking Longer

LONDONI (Reuter) - Pregnant women who smoke up to the time they give birth have a 50 percent risk of their babies suffering respiratory problems, a British study showed.

A five-year study of 14,000 mothers by professor Jean Golding, professor of pediatric epidemiology at Bristol University, found that the longer pregnant women smoked, the worse the effects were on their babies.

The findings contradict a popular myth that smoking only endangers the baby in early pregnancy.

The baby of a mother who smokes until 34 weeks of pregnancy has a 50 percent chance of suffering from wheezing and breathless attacks, which may indicate a long-term affliction, the study said.

A mother who stops smoking at 20 weeks of pregnancy has a 40 percent chance of having a baby that wheezes in its first six months, it added.

"The message is that it is important for pregnant women to stop smoking. If they can do so before conception that's even better," said Dr John Henderson who collaborated with Golding's study.

"The good news is that it's never too late to stop," said Leanne Riley of the government's health education authority.

It is already known smoking can stunt foetal growth, but the study suggested it could possibly cause long-term abnormalities in the baby's lungs.

"There are potentially hundreds of toxic substances in cigarette smoke and that is obviously getting through to the placenta," Henderson said.

Reducing Salt May Be Beneficial Only to Older Hypertensive Persons

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Cutting back on salt consumption does not lower blood pressure for most people and may be beneficial only to older hypertensive persons, according to a study published in the journal of the American Medical Association.

The findings, which contradict current dietary recommendations, were made by reviewing previous studies of dietary sodium restrictions on blood pressure. The researchers found that blood pressure response to dietary sodium intervention was much larger in trials of hypertensive subject with a mean age of 45 years or older than for all hypertensive trials together.

The study was conducted by two scientists at the department of medicine of the University of Toronto.

"There is now a need to look beyond blood pressure control with this dietary intervention in the light of new evidence linking low urinary sodium excretion with higher mortality risks and recent reports describing the adverse metabolic effects of a low-sodium diet," said the authors of the study, Julian Paul Midgley and Alexander Gordon Logan.

But Claude Lenfant, director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NIH) dismissed the findings, and stressed Americans must protect their cardio-vascular health by limiting their intake of salt.

Today in History

1567 — Irish rebel Shane O'Neil, Earl of Tyrone, is assassinated.

1622 — Signismund of Poland signs armistice with Gustavus II of Sweden.

1675 — Coup in Spain leads to overthrow of queen mother, and Don John, a natural son of Philip IV, takes command.

1771 — Russia completes its conquest of the Crimea.

1815 — Napoleon Bonaparte issues a liberal constitution in France.

1917 — Brazil revokes its neutrality in World War I and seizes German ships.

1924 — U.S. Congress confirms citizenship on all American Indians.

1941 — Germany's Adolf Hitler and Italy's Benito Mussolini hold World War II meeting at Brenner pass in the Alps.

1946 — Britain and United States restore Azores base to Portugal.

1949 — Transjordan is renamed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

1965 — Almost 200 miners are killed in coal mine explosion near Fukouoka, Japan. European hostages are reported killed by Congolese rebels.

1966 — Southeast Asian nations of Indonesia and Malaysia agree to end five years of hostilities.

1974 — King of Bhutan, Jig Singhi Wangchuk, is crowned to become — at age 18 — youngest monarch in world.

1983 — Soviet Union announces launch of new space probe to planet Venus, and says it was fired into interplanetary space from satellite orbiting Earth.

1984 — India's army takes control of strife-torn Punjab state on eve of new, massive civil disobedience campaign in Sikh militants.

1988 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev defends his nation's human rights record following summit meeting said to have advanced East-West relations.

1989 — Japan's new Prime Minister Sousuke Uno pledges "clean start" for Japanese politics, disrupted for almost one year by bribery scandal.

1990 — Liberia's President Samuel Doe appeals for international help to end a rebel invasion and promises not to seek re-election in an effort to appease rebels.

1991 — Swiss celebrate their country's 700th birthday.

1992 — A UN convoy carrying baby food and other needed supplies is attacked in a Sarajevo suburb.

1993 — Bosnian Serb artillery slams Gorazde, and radio reports describe the city as a "mass grave" as forces move against one of Bosnia's last Muslim enclaves.

THOUGHT

ANYBODY can make history. Only a great man can write it.

Oscar Wilde

PRAYER

Noon	13:03
Evening	20:39
Dawn (tomorrow)	3:52
Sunrise (tomorrow)	5:49

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B	A	U	E	R	S	D		RACK 1
F	U	U	T	B	L	T		RACK 2
C	A	E	E	Y	L	K	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
T	I	U	X	R	M	E	2nd Letter Double	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 115-125

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____

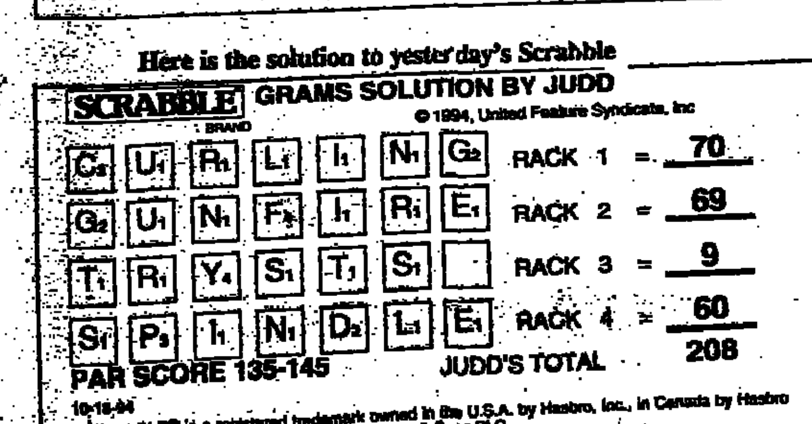
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

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10-18-94

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble


SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

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C	U	R	L	I	N	G	RACK 1 =	70
G	U	N	F	I	R	E	RACK 2 =	69
T	R	Y	S	T	S		RACK 3 =	9
S	P	I	N	D	L	E	RACK 4 =	60
							JUDD'S TOTAL	208

PAR SCORE 135-145

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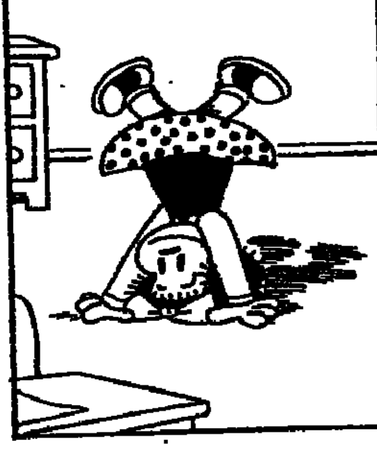
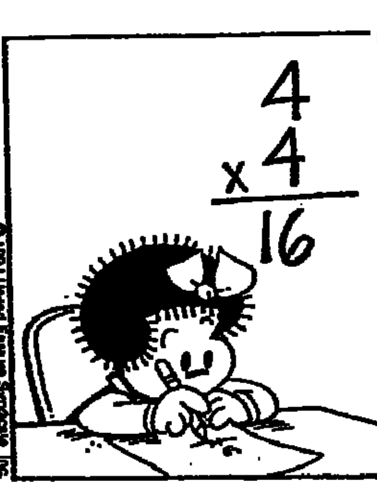
FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr



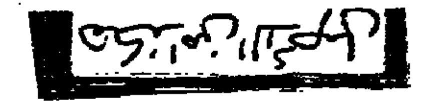



CRASH


NANCY ® by Guy & Brad Gilchrist

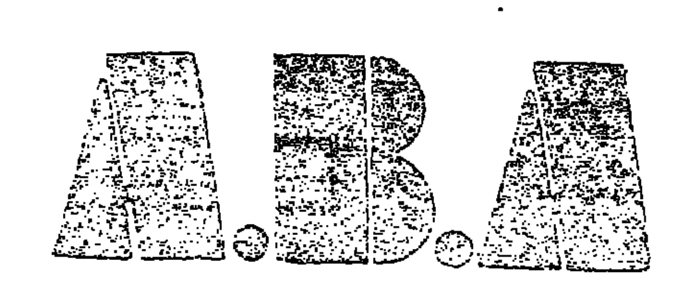




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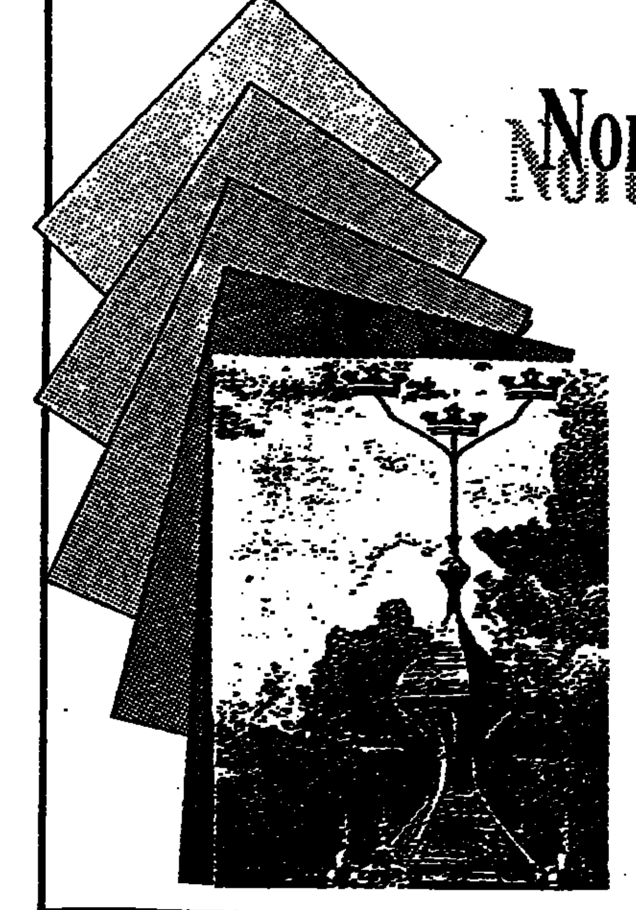
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Imam Khomeini Revived the Spirit of Ashura

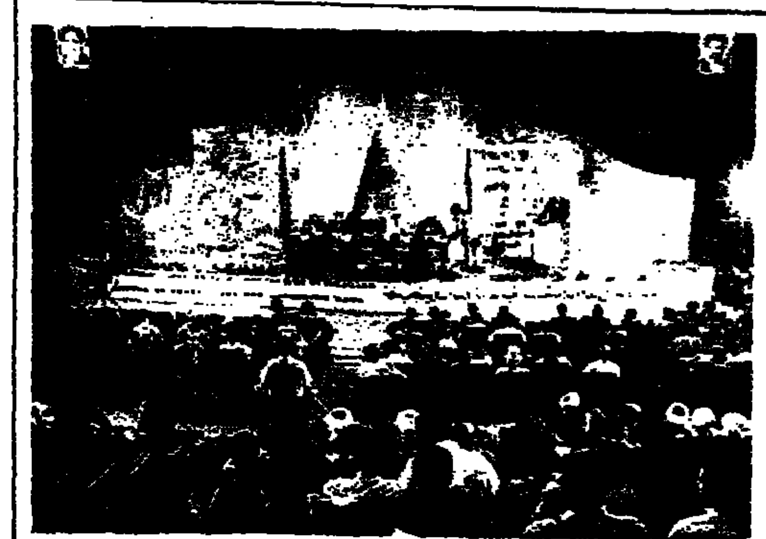
Ayatollah Mohammad Vaezzadeh Khorasani, chairman of the Second International Congress on Imam Khomeini and the Culture of Ashura elaborated on the objectives and administering the great congress.

Q: Please elaborate on the importance of Karbala heartbreaking event in the history of Islam.

A: In the Name of God. No doubt Ashura disaster is the greatest tragedy in the history of Islam. It should be noted that Ashura is also important for all the Muslims of the world including Sunnis. That's why Karbala event has been condemned by all Muslims of the world. I insist that Ashura event should not be regretted by Shia' only because it belongs — as Imam Khomeini has said — to all Muslims of the world. In fact Imam Khomeini has learnt a lot from Ashura and his Islamic movement is a manifestation of Imam Hussein's uprising. The Grand Leader also has insisted on holding Ashura ceremonies more gloriously than ever.

Q: Since you are the chairman of the second international congress, please define the way you administer the congress.

A: The second congress on Jun. 1 and 2 is concurrent with Moharram 14 and 15 and it is



held in Allameh Amini Hall, University of Tehran, with participants from Iran and other countries.

The first congress was sponsored by the Institution for Compilation and Publication of the Works of Imam Khomeini while the second congress was shared by the Foundation for Martyrs and the institute. Also along with the congress a poetry gathering is supposed to be held in Ferdowsi Hall, Faculty of Literature. It should be added here, the congress includes four committees (scientific, executive, international and artistic and cultural)

Q: Please elaborate on the participants of the congress.

A: Almost 100 thinkers and scholars from different countries of the world including 20 from Asia and Oceania, 10 from Africa, 30 from Arab states, 10 from Europe and the U.S. and 30 from Central Asia and Caucasus.

Some 2000 scholars have been informed of the congress 400 of which expressed their readiness to attend the congress. Also 320 articles have been sent to the secretariat of the congress 40 of which have been approved.

The extracts of the articles is published in English, Arabic and Farsi. The second congress covers the following items:

I- The impact of Ashura culture on Imam Khomeini

In this view the impact of Ashura event on different aspects of Imam Khomeini's character is discussed: social, theological, political, renovation of Ashura culture, etc.

II- Jihad, [illegible] leadership in the Ashura culture

Ashura teachings, uprising, *jihad* and the role of religious leader in the society, motifs behind uprising, educational prototypes, etc. are discussed here.

III- Martyrdom and [illegible] in the religious culture

This view includes the role of martyr and martyrdom culture in safeguarding the Islamic values, the stages of character formation, icons of martyrdom in the history of Islam and Ashura, the responsibility of the Islamic society concerning families of martyrs, and the role of Imam Khomeini in reviving martyrdom culture.

Also in a roundtable, Ayatollah Vaezzadeh Khorasani, Ayatollah Mohammad Ebrahim Janati, Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Akoochian the objectives of the congress.

First Ayatollah Vaezzadeh elaborated on the objectives of the first and second congress.

Then Ayatollah Janati spoke about the motifs behind Imam Hussein's uprising. He said after the demise of the Prophet four views appeared among the Muslims. The first group believed that Caliphate is a divine post appointed by God; the second group believed it as a religious affair; the third group believed neither but insisted Caliphate is rather a political-social which should be appointed by the nation; while the fourth group believed it as a separate entity from *Imamate*.

Hojjatoleslam Akoochian elaborated on the achievements of the congress. He said the congress focuses on publicizing the values, views, traditions and norms of Ashura and defining Imam Khomeini's thoughts concerning Ashura event. He hoped that the second congress would be more fruitful than the first one.

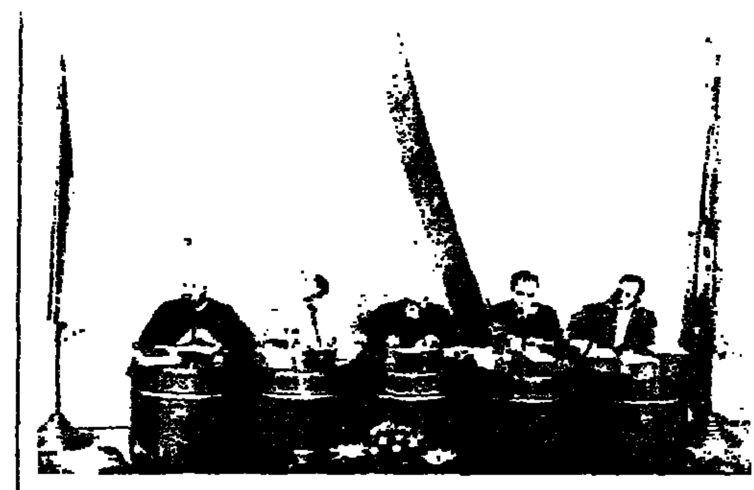
He outlined some achievements of the first congress as: exchanging views between the thinkers, defining the importance of Ashura culture in an Islamic society, creating a strong link between seminary and university.

A Glance at the First Congress on Imam Khomeini and Ashura Culture

The first International Congress on Imam Khomeini and the Culture of Ashura was held last year on May 31 and Jun. 1 with the participation of Iranian and foreign thinkers in Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization amphitheater. Almost 300 articles were sent to the secretariat of the congress some of which recited in the congress.

Most of the articles had been written by young scholars from the seminaries and universities. In the first congress a collection of essays in Farsi, translation of the 2 volumes into English and Arabic were presented.

Also in the first congress compiling Ashura encyclopedia was suggested and approved.



First Imam Khomeini Art Gallery Inaugurated in Isfahan



ISFAHAN — The first Imam Khomeini Art Gallery was *inaugurated in Isfahan by the* Late Leader's grandson, Hojjatoleslam Seyed Hassan Khomeini.

Present at the inaugural ceremony were: Friday prayer leader also the Vali-e Faqih representative in Isfahan; Ayatollah Hashemi member of the Assembly of Experts, some university professors and theological school scholars along with political and cultural officials of the province.

The art gallery is affiliated to the Institute for Compilation and Publication of the Works of Imam Khomeini.

Hojjatoleslam Seyed Hassan Khomeini expressed his applause and condolences in the ceremony for the concurrence of *Ashura* with the demise of the Late Imam Khomeini.

He said the first Imam Khomeini Art Gallery in Isfahan could be a center for the expansion of the Great Leader's thoughts more than before.

He added the expansion of the doctrine of Islamology has been the prime goal of the institute authorities. He said the institute enjoys exclusive and joint ventures. Protecting personal possessions of the Late Imam Khomeini is one of the exclusive responsibilities of the institute while publicizing the Late Great Leader's thoughts is considered as a joint responsibility. "*Ashura* is the greatest truth in the course of history that has been transferred to us," he noted.

Seyed Hassan Khomeini went on to say Imam Hussein Martyrdom is a manifestation of love toward God in Islamic societies that is widely appreciated among Sunni and Shia' communities. This fact has got its root in the logical principles. If Iranian people admire and accept the move wholeheartedly, that is because *Ashura* leads them to the true path.

He further said the present generation love and respect Imam Khomeini for theological reasons and the impact the Leader has put upon their minds and hearts. "If we cannot transfer this basic thoughts to the next generations, the love toward the right path will vanish away."

The Late Imam Khomeini's grandson remarked the relations stemming from love and kindness are stronger than that of reasoning but at the same time the love-arisen relations face two confusions. First they are not wide-ranging; second their transfer to the next generations is difficult. "To make the next generations familiar with the thoughts of Imam Khomeini, we should work on his way of thinking."

Seyed Hassan Khomeini referred to the first group introduced to Imam Khomeini and said they formed the first theological group that led to the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

He told the attendants the inauguration of the Imam Khomeini Art Gallery is a good opportunity to discuss over the ways of opposing those who oppose the thoughts of Imam Khomeini. Such a great task cannot be done by merely love, he said. "Those who oppose our belief do not target our hearts, rather they point their weapons at our minds. It is our duty to strengthen the minds and way of thinking of our people," he added.

Hojjatoleslam Hassan Khomeini stressed the only way to resist cultural invasion is following the *Velayat-e Faqih* guidelines.

He claimed another responsibility of the Institution for Compilation and Publication of the Works of Imam Khomeini is studying the fundamental doctrines of Imam and publicizing them. Another responsibility of the institution is to establish a research center for discussions on the doctrines of Imam Khomeini.

Isfahan art gallery should pursue spiritual training along with its art exhibitions, he said.

Head of the Isfahan Institute for Compilation and Publication of the Works of Imam Khomeini, Seyed Ali Nekuei, also said the first art gallery adorned with the esteemed name of Imam Khomeini was inaugurated in the Isfahan.

He added the need to establish a center for expanding the thoughts of Imam Khomeini was felt long ago and later the custodianship of the late Haj Ahmad Khomeini Institution approved the erection of the present art gallery. Engineer Jahangiri, the governor of Isfahan and the mayor of Isfahan supported the project and the institute budgeted it.

Nekuei added the exploitation of the project could be a blessing to the offsprings of the province.

He said the authorities wanted the project to be inaugurated by the late Haj Ahmad Khomeini but it was the act of God to have the project inaugurated by his son. It is hoped that the center could fulfill its responsibility to expand the culture of the Islamic Republic and to make it known through out the world.

Head of the Isfahan institute outlined the facilities presented to the public in the art gallery and said the gallery is erected on a land of 1,800 sq.m in three stories with 650 sq.m land area allocated by the municipality of Isfahan.

He added the amphitheater in the basement can be used separately for holding assemblies and screening plays, he said.

Also a part of the first story will be used as stores and bookshops representing books, cassettes, lectures and artistic works of Imam Khomeini.

He revealed almost 52 artistic works by Chinese Muslim artists will be exhibited in near future in the gallery.

The head of the Isfahan institute elaborated on the first floor used as museum and said it consists of two parts. In the first part personal possessions of the Late Imam Khomeini and Haj Ahmad Khomeini including handwritings, letters and statements are exhibited and in the second part selected works of the artists are displayed to develop the capabilities of the Islamic Republic offsprings. He said there has been launched plans for this part of the complex with the collaboration of the Ministry of Education and theological schools to



make the next generations familiar with the thoughts of the Late Islamic Republic Father.

He said the institute hereby invites all the scholars, professors, men of letters, artists and scientists who are worried about the cultural invasion, to help institute to strengthen the spiritual capabilities of the present generation.

Nekuei stressed the best and the most effective factor to do this, is the teachings of Imam Khomeini. He added the present generation can overcome the difficulties in this regard relying on the thoughts of the Late Leader that manifest the pure Islamic rules of the Prophet.

It should be noted that the first Imam Khomeini Art Gallery, with 800 sq.m built area and with an investment of two billion and 200 million rials has been erected on Feiz St. Isfahan, near the historic Khajou Bridge.

Canada's Fabled Horse Cops Dismount and Get Real

REGINA, Saskatchewan (AP) – The Canadian Mountie of Hollywood cliche not only always got his man, but saved an imperiled young woman and perhaps befriended some trusty Indians along the way.

These days, young women and Indians are apt to be Mounties themselves, nabbing the villain with a martial-arts chokehold or calming a brawl with diplomacy learned in dispute-resolution class.

The trademark Stetson hats and red jackets still surface for ceremonial events. But the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is thoroughly transforming itself with new training techniques and an aggressive campaign to recruit women and minorities.

Nowhere are the changes more evident than at the Mounties' National Training Academy on the western fringe of this prairie city. The cadet corps is older, better educated, more diverse than ever before.

Some long-serving Mounties have been skeptical of the changes, and the right-wing Reform Party contends that affirmative- action recruitment is weakening the force.

But academy staff insists the quality of today's cadets is higher than ever.

"Our standards haven't changed," said Inspector Harper Boucher, who oversees cadet training. "If you're weak, if you don't come up to the standards, you're out."

The cadets still learn the tough stuff — how to subdue an attacker, fire a 12-gauge shotgun, conduct high-speed pursuit on slippery roads. But they also take awareness classes aimed at enhancing understanding of minority groups and learn about community-based social programs.

Women weren't admitted to the force until 1974. Now, 1,169 of the 15,081 Mounties are women. There are 441 aboriginal Indians on the force, and 381 officers from other racial minorities, primarily blacks and Asians.

The ethnic diversification program began in the mid-1980s and accelerated over the past few years as the Mounties reassessed their methods of policing aboriginal and minority communities. They began recruiting cadets who knew the culture and language, who wouldn't be seen as outsiders.

"It's amazing the diversity you see now," said Superintendent Les Chipperfield, the academy's deputy commander. He recalled one troop of 24 cadets who collectively spoke 20 different languages.

Cpl. Lawrence Aimoe, 35, an Indian of Cree and Ojibway descent, is an instructor at the academy. There were no aboriginals on the staff when he studied there as one of a handful of Indian recruits.

Aimoe first applied to join the Mounties in 1979, but wasn't accepted until 1985 — roughly the time the high command decided to seek a new approach in combating the high crime and incarceration rates among Canada's 1 million Indians.

"The force realized it wasn't serving native communities the way it should," Aimoe said. "It's been a slow, painful process."

The verdict on the Mounties' progress is mixed.

"On most reserves things are fine. There are Mounties out their coaching the kids in bantam hockey leagues," said Bruce Spence, a spokesman for the Alliance of Manitoba Indian Chiefs. "But there are some places that are really bad. We know about a white constable who goes around picking fights with the kids."

Kah-Tineta Horn, a Mohawk woman who is president of the Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native Peoples, believes the Mounties' diversification effort is insincere.

She says the force still is slow to promote Indians to supervisory positions, and is more ready to use firearms during confrontations with Indians than it would be if whites were involved.

Some Indian communities are happy to have Mounties as their police force; others have asked the RCMP to train native officers to take over law enforcement on a reserve.

The addition of more Indian officers has had a concrete impact in some communities. Aimoe told of his stint at Hobbema, a Cree reserve in Alberta, where he and his partners were able to sharply reduce the murder and suicide rates and get local people more involved in law enforcement.

"The community made up its mind to change," Aimoe said. "There was a terrific turnaround."

The trademark Stetson hats and red jackets still surface for ceremonial events. But the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is thoroughly transforming itself with new training techniques and an aggressive campaign to recruit women and minorities.

Aimoe said aboriginal Mounties are well-received on most of the reserves, but he advises Indian cadets to stay away from their home communities.

"We've lost a few via suicide that way," he said. "Chances are that within a week they're arresting a relative. It's tough going back and policing your own family."

The pressure on such Mounties can be intense. Aimoe said they are likely to be taunted with the epithet "apple" — red on the outside, white on the inside.

Women now make up 11 percent of the force, and have begun reaching command-level positions. One detachment in British Columbia now consists of 15 women and 13 men.

At the academy, women face the same physical requirements as men, whether on the shooting range, in self-defense class or passing a mandatory stamina test.

"The girls are timid when they start, and just as aggressive as the guys when they've finished," said Cpl. Bruce Onofreychuk, who oversees instruction at the shooting range.

At the academy, the new teaching methods coexist with time-honored traditions. Drill instructors bellow commands for military-style parading, and dormitories resemble army barracks, each cot and bureau precision-neat.

Lesley Ahara, 25, majored in criminology at the University of Toronto, startled her friends by deciding to become a Mountie.

"They have no idea what it's like," she said during lunch at the academy cafeteria. "They asked if I was going to ride horses or go to the Yukon."

A handful of cadets do head for the Yukon. But despite the force's name, no one learns riding at the academy, and most Mounties never mount a horse.

Ahara, though a top-level synchronized swimmer, said she has found the academy program to be physically taxing, especially the self-defense drills and the shooting.

"It's a man's world here," she said. "It's 10 times harder for a woman."

But she said there was little sexism at the academy, and she is determined to complete the training without seeking concessions.

"I'm a real emotional, sappy kind of wimp," she said. "I'm getting a lot tougher. I want to be 100 percent prepared."

In some ways, Ahara is typical of the new breed of cadet. The average age is about 26, and about two-thirds have university degrees. Many have given up full-time jobs in other professions — recent cadets have included lawyers, pharmacists and a mortician.

There are about 400 cadets at the academy at any one time, entering in troops of 24 at staggered intervals to complete a six-month program. Their starting pay on graduation is $22,510 (U.S.), and the salary rises to $28,225 (U.S.) after six more months of field training.

At the academy, the new teaching methods coexist with time-honored traditions. Drill instructors bellow commands for military-style parading, and dormitories resemble army barracks, each cot and bureau precision-neat.

Cadets worship in a chapel built in 1873, the year of the Mounties' birth, and march to classes down streets named for officers killed in the line of duty.

Today's Mounties undertake a remarkable diverse array of tasks — rural policing and highway patrolling in all but two provinces; FBI-style intelligence work; fraud and narcotics investigations; protection of Canadian and visiting dignitaries. Most of the time, they wear standard blue police outfits.

Chipperfield said teaching and training methods were radically changed in 1994. Traditional lectures were virtually eliminated and cadets were taught as adults, learning by doing, concentrating on problem-solving skills.

The Mounties work for provincial governments and Indian tribes only if they are considered the most cost-effective way to provide law enforcement. Ontario and Quebec, for example, have their own provincial forces to provide rural policing.

The emphasis is on "community policing" — working with civic leaders to meet specific local law-enforcement needs.

"We take on so many little tasks — veterinarian, dog catcher, you name it," Boucher said.

Mounties in the field do make occasional slip-ups. Last fall, there was widespread derision when an intruder slipped past Mountie security at Prime Minister Jean Chretien's residence and reached the bedroom door before being caught.

But the force remains Canada's most enduring and respected national symbol.

"We're no. 1 in the world," Chipperfield said. "Our cadets look a lot different than they used to. But that reflects our society. We're never going to stop growing and changing."

AIDS: A Booming Business

NEW YORK (AFP) – Airlines, medical laboratories and organizers of meditation seminars were among some 150 companies to exhibit at the first trade show to target the booming market of HIV-infected people and AIDS patients.

Others plying their wares at the two-day fair that opened here Friday included medical associations, hospitals and companies specialized in repurchasing life insurance policies.

"AIDS is definitely a deadly disease, but many of us live for 10 or 20 years," said Sean Strub, who organized the event, which he said "wants to be a place for consumers and companies to meet."

"Some may find it unfortunate that AIDS is a business, but this is a massive disease, and this is the nature of the capitalist system, that's how it is," said Strub.

Strub publishes a monthly magazine named *Poz* aimed at a readership of AIDS patients and HIV-infected people. Strub himself has been infected with HIV — the virus that causes AIDS — for at least 17 years, according to his doctors.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, more than 530,000 people were living with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the United States as of March.

Between 600,000 and 900,000 people are currently HIV-infected, a figure that rises by 40,000 a year. In New York alone, about 80,000 people are HIV-positive, according to the city's health department.

The crowd to the Javits Center, where the trade fair is held, was young and sexually and ethnically mixed.

Strub said he expected at least 5,000 visitors, two-thirds of them AIDS patients or people who carry HIV.

"To be part of this trade fair is just a business decision for us," said Rick Cirillo, American Airlines' marketing director for the homosexual community.

"Our clients are here, and we come to meet them like in any other trade show," he said. "We're sponsoring a great number of gay and lesbian events, everybody knows it, and it didn't darken our image whatsoever — so why would we stay away?" he said.

Companies specialized in repurchasing life insurance policies and pharmaceutical laboratories have also taken the opportunity to talk directly to their clients.

"This is the first time we participate in such a fair, but I have to say I don't think of any other fair where we could talk to patients like we do here with HIV positive people," said David Jermasek of Abbott Laboratories.

In the past, the U.S. pharmaceutical group generally distributed its brochures through doctors, particularly descriptions of its "norvir" treatment, one of the protease inhibitors that has recently hit the market.

"AIDS patients are highly informed people and we have professional talks with them about the pro and con of our medications. I can't imagine doing the same thing at a senior trade show with a medication for prostate insufficiency," said Jermasek.

According to Strub, several companies said they were unable to take part in the trade fair but would like to participate in the next one, to be held in Miami, Florida, later in the year.

New Kind of Comet Discovered

WASHINGTON (AFP) – U.S. astronauts have for the first time found significant amounts of ethane and methane in the Hyakutake Comet, which suggests the discovery of a new kind of comet, NASA said Friday.

The discovery was made last March by a team of National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists that was tracking Hyakutake's close encounter with earth from an infrared telescope atop Natunea Kea in Hawaii.

During their observations, the scientists found that the volume of ethane molecules was almost 1,000 times greater than usually seen in this type of heavenly body.

Until this discovery, the presence of ethane and methane molecules had never been seen in a comet's composition. The NASA team said the two gases each represented about one percent of the gas present in the makeup of the Hyakutake Comet.

NASA believes the discovery could have serious implications on current theories explaining the formation of the sun and planets.

"Comets that are rich in ethane must have experienced very different conditions during their birth than comets that do not contain it," said Michael Mumma with NASA's laboratory for extraterrestrial physics.

One theory that seeks to explain this difference in comet composition is that ethane-rich comets are created in hot regions close to Saturn and Jupiter, whereas ethane-poor comets evolve far from the sun near planets such as Uranus and Neptune.

Other scientists, on the other hand, have attributed the difference to a comet's age and some have gone as far as to theorize that ethane-rich comets come from a different solar system altogether.

NASA scientists now plan to conduct new studies of Halley's Comet.

Global Increase in Plague Cases

GENEVA (AFP) – Cases of plague registered throughout the world have increased over the past five years, with a record of nearly 3,000 in 1994, the World Health Organization said Friday.

The worst epidemics occurred two years ago in Tanzania with 444 cases, including 50 deaths, and india, which suffered 876 cases including 54 deaths.

A study revealed that some 54 percent of cases notified during the period between 1980 and 1994 had occurred in the five years between 1990 and 1994 inclusive.

During the 1980-94 period a total of 18,739 cases of human plague, 1,852 of them fatal, were reported in 24 countries.

Throughout the 15 years, nine countries reported cases almost every year. These were Madagascar and Tanzania in Africa, Brazil, the USA and Peru in the Western Hemisphere, and China, Mongolia, Burma and Vietnam in Asia.

Old TVs and Computers May Get a New Life

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) – Remember all those old TV sets, refrigerators and computers? Well, they may get a new lease on life in the 21st century.

Mitsubishi Electric and Mitsubishi Materials, in cooperation with the Japanese government, are establishing new plants to take apart and recycle electric and electronic products.

Takashi Kiuchi, chairman and chief executive officer of Mitsubishi Electric America, told a World Business Forum meeting on Friday that the project would start with one "disassembly plant" in each of Japan's 47 prefectures.

"These centers will take used electric products from any manufacturer and disassemble them, so instead of being thrown away, they can be reused," he said.

Mitsubishi is concentrating on designing products so they can be taken apart, he said.

"That will reduce the resources necessary to provide people with computers — as well as reduce the costs to companies, people and the environment," Kiuchi said.

The World Business Forum is one of several events being held in Istanbul ahead of the UN conference on cities which starts Monday. Its aim is to come up with ideas on how the private sector can help improve city life.

and Get Real

omet Discovered

TVs and Computers May Get a New Life

U.S. Pinpointing Those Millions of Mines in Bosnia

TUZLA AIR BASE, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Working in a shed-like building near the heart of the U.S. command center, Master Sgt. Donald A. Phinney saw something that looked odd.

A sheet of paper purporting to show the location of some of the millions of land mines in Bosnia didn't make sense. So the 36-year-old U.S. Army engineer went back to the Bosnian Serb Army for an explanation.

It was one small step in the effort to map as many of the insidious weapons as possible and limit casualties among soldiers in the NATO-led military force overseeing the Bosnian peace accords.

So far at least six members of the international force have been killed by mines.

The color maps Phinney is preparing are being combined with charts done by the British and French forces for their sectors.

The former warring factions also get maps for areas that they take over from another side in the exchange of territory under the peace accords.

Phinney works with detailed maps showing where "belts" of mines—and actual minefields that make up those belts—are located. Separately, he gets sheets of paper that show where individual mines are laid in the minefields. This time, he was having trouble matching the sheets and the maps.

"They gave me maps without sheet numbers," Phinney said. "Then, they had the same number for different sheets."

But Phinney said that, as usual, the engineers for the side that laid the mines—this time, the Bosnian Serb Army—were able to sort out the problem.

Phinney, one of the first U.S. soldiers to arrive in Bosnia when the peace implementation force started deploying in December, said he is convinced problems with reporting of mines stem from errors or sloppiness rather than attempted deception.

"A lot of the soldiers on both sides are conscripts, farmers and stuff, who haven't had a lot of military training," he said. "Their grids are off because a lot of their people don't really understand how to do grids. But the head engineers really know where the things are, so they sit down with me and correct it."

"It takes a lot of time, a lot of looking," he said.

Once all the information appears correct, Phinney and his four-member team transfer it laboriously to maps. Four translators make English versions of the map sheets.

So far Phinney and his team have made maps and descriptions for 80 percent of 4,376 known mine "belts," most of which are along the former front line—the "zone of separation" snaking back and forth across Bosnia to keep the factions apart.

Phinney said each mine belt can contain from one to 30 minefields, and each field can have from one to 100 mines.

International estimates of the total number of mines in Bosnia run from 1.5 million to 4 million.

The map sheets alone have filled 42 three-inch-thick (7.6-centimeter) binders.

The details also are entered into a computer spreadsheet, checked and rechecked before they are printed and distributed with the maps to units, so that any soldier driving in Bosnia can tell what roads to avoid.

The NATO force refuses to clear mines itself. When it needs to open a road through a minefield, it requires the former warring faction that laid the mines to remove them.

A number of Serb, Croat and Muslim mine clearers have been killed, Phinney said, but he didn't know how many.

The two sides laid roughly equal numbers of mines, but they vary in pattern.

Since engineers on both sides received their training in the army of former Yugoslavia, the army of the Muslim-dominated Bosnian government decided against using the patterns they were taught and instead laid mines at random to confuse the Serbs.

"But they still wrote down where the mines were placed so that they can be cleared," Phinney said.

Phinney said each map contains a disclaimer that these are only known minefields because many of the mines laid in former Yugoslavia are unrecorded.

America Seeks to Educate, Defend Its Children

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Americans tired of seeing youths sucked into the world of crime, drugs and despair, are looking for ways to recover their children from the violence that rocks the society.

Youth have come to the forefront of social and political discussions here and both presidential candidates have latched on to the campaign.

Campaign topics have included teenage single mothers, teen gangs, violence on television, school prayer and uniforms, as well as violence and drugs.



President Bill Clinton enthusiastically praised the curfews that most big U.S. cities impose on children under 16 to curb delinquency. On Friday Republican presidential hopeful Robert Dole told schoolchildren that "drugs are a shortcut to disaster" and are responsible for half of all acts of violence in the United States.

Whether drug-related or not, violent crimes committed by children are on the rise according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A six-year-old is in a California prison on charges of attempted murder of an infant. In Los Angeles four children between 11 and 12 years-old were jailed for allegedly trying to kill their teacher with rat poison. And in Chicago a 12 and a 13-year-old are serving long prison sentences for pushing a five-year-old out of a window.

Faced with the increasingly heinous crimes committed by children, nearly all states have changed their laws to prosecute children as adults.

But children are both victims of violence and negligence and perpetrators of crime and violence.

The Children's Defense Fund, which has organized a massive demonstration in Washington for Saturday to "stand for children," says a child is killed by a firearm every two hours in the United States.

Every four hours a child commits suicide and every eight hours one dies from acts of violence or negligence, the organization says.

Since 1979, 60,000 children have died from firearms in the United States, more than all the soldiers killed in the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars and the operations in Haiti, Somalia and Bosnia, according to the [illegible] dren's Fund.

At the same time, a child is arrested e[illegible] 14 seconds and one child [illegible] eight in the United States wields a weapon.

In its latest issue the *U.S. News and World Report* offers a cover story on "how to raise a moral child" while the *Time* asks "Who speaks for kids?" .

Best-selling *"Book of Virtues,"* encourages compassion and honesty in dealing with children.

Meanwhile, every day, new cases of gratuitous violence committed by children traumatize American society as it seeks a solution.

Islamic Court Restores Order in Northern Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Fed up with murders, abductions, rape and robberies in a country without formal authority, the residents of northern Mogadishu asked Muslim clergymen for help.

In response, the clerics formed the High Sharia Implementation Council, a court administering its own interpretation of Islamic law, known as Sharia. The result has been the return of a semblance of law and order in one part of the capital.

The judges follow a middle-road brand of Islam, but command respect among all Muslim sects and their rulings are generally accepted, perhaps because they focus on criminal acts rather than theological issues.

Penalties can be harsh — a judge sliced off one woman's lower lip with a razor to punish her for biting off another woman's lip in a fight — and crime in the northern suburbs has decreased dramatically.

Carrying of firearms on streets is banned, a huge achievement in the strife-ridden Horn of Africa nation. Men once again wear wristwatches without fear of thieves. Women not only wear jewelry, but take strolls at night.

Ali Mahdi Mohammed, a northern Mogadishu warlord who also claims the disputed Somali presidency, says he could not "rule" without the court.

Somalia has not had a functioning government since dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was thrown out in 1991 and the nation disintegrated into fiefdoms of warring clans.



Before the court was established in August 1994, businessmen carted their goods h[illegible] for safe keeping at night.

"I used to spend more than 10,000 shillings every day to move my stock back home for security," said Saney Abdi, who sells odds and ends from two roadside stalls. "Now I leave everything here."

While that is equivalent to just $1.50, it is a substantial sum in anarchic Mogadishu.

Before government authority collapsed, young Somali women customarily went shopping or walking decked in gold jewelry. But showing off jewelry invited instant robbery until the rule of the Sharia Court was imposed.

"Now I can go to friends' parties at night wearing all my worthy belongings," said Asha Warsame Elmi, 19.

Olivier Brouant, of the French charity International Action Against Hunger, said northern Mogadishu is much safer than the rest of the divided seaside city.

"But we still take the same precautions we did before," he said. "We still take armed guards with us whenever we leave our compound."

This is mainly because thugs still come from southern Mogadishu, where the court has no jurisdiction.

Court officials say they have 400 armed Mujahedeen, or Muslim warriors, and an additional 500 volunteers to enforce rulings on crimes ranging from petty theft to murder.

Financed mainly by businessmen, the court has estimated revenues of 167 million Somali shillings ($25,000) daily. About 60 percent pay the militiamen, court officials and clan elders take the rest.

Since the court was established, it has sentenced seven people to death — five were shot by firing squad for murders and two were stoned to death for adultery. Sixty-nine people had limbs amputated for a variety of offenses.

The most unusual ruling involved a woman who bit off a portion of another's lower lip in a fight. The court ruled the woman deserved to lose an equal portion of her lower lip. The judge marked the portion with a felt-tip pen and sliced it off with a razor.

Defense attorneys are not allowed.

"Lawyers defend known criminals and try to deprive others of their rights," said the court's chairman, Sharif Muhidin. "We are the lawyers for everybody because we are fulfilling God's will and not our desires."

The clergymen are not liked by everyone.

Muhidin said relatives of those convicted swear revenge in keeping with Somali clan tradition, but he dismisses the threats even though shots have been fired at the homes of some judges.

"The majority of the people enjoy the security we have restored and they stand against anything that jeopardizes this," Muhidin said.

The court is one of an estimated 39 Sharia tribunals scattered across Somalia.

Muhidin said the courts are the best solution to the anarchy that has ravaged the country.

But they can cause problems, especially to foreign aid workers.

Early this year, for instance, an Islamic court in the southwestern town of Luuq near the Kenya border ruled that foreigners are subject to the Sharia. All foreign aid workers pulled out.

"We are still seeking a solution," said Judy Fisher, a spokeswoman for the UN Development Program in Somalia who resides in Kenya.

Chernomyrdin: Inflation to Hit Another Record Low in May

MOSCOW (AP) — Inflation in Russia is expected to fall to another record low of less than 1.5 percent a month, Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

The previous record, set in April, was 2.2 percent a month. Chernomyrdin said inflation is likely to continue at current low levels, with the annual rate at around 30 percent, down from 131 percent last year, Russian news agencies reported.

But, Chernomyrdin, who is visiting the Urals city of Chelyabinsk, told a group of businessmen that tax revenues have plunged as companies hold back cash waiting for the outcome of June 16 presidential elections.

Bonn Says It Will Keep Door Open to Kazakh Germans

ALMATY (Reuter) - Germany promised on Friday to keep the door open to ethnic German migrants from the former Soviet Union, but made clear it wanted the half million still living in Kazakhstan to stay put.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, visiting Kazakhstan for the first time, said speculation that immigration might be restricted was the result of an "unfortunate debate" in Germany.

"We say to the people: Stay here and we will help you find decent living conditions," Kinkel told reporters on a one-day official visit to Almaty after visiting Uzbekistan on Thursday.

"But, if you believe that you cannot stay, we will help you come to the Federal Republic."

Kazakhstan's ethnic German community, descended from farming stock deported here on Soviet leader Josef Stalin's orders in World War II, has shrunk by over half since 1991.

Over 200,000 have emigrated to Germany in the past two years, mainly from rural settlements on the northern Steppe.

Record German unemployment has sparked a stormy debate over whether to amend blood-based citizenship laws to cut immigration by ethnic Germans. Many have lost their mother tongue and, unable to find work, end up on the dole.

But Alexander Dederer, head of Kazakhstan's Council of Germans, said talk of the possibility of the drawbridge going up had actually triggered a new rush among those mulling leaving.

"This has caused panic," he told Reuters. "This discussion has very much affected people who have thought for a very long time about whether or not to go. Many are now rushing to leave."

Kinkel signed an agreement with his Kazakh counterpart Kasymzhomart Tokayev to support the German community and ensure that its minority rights are respected.

But Tokayev said the two had agreed to continue to make it possible for ethnic Germans to choose where they wanted to live.

Kinkel visited the Bonn-funded "German House" Community Center in Almaty, dropping in to an adult German language class.

"You can come to Germany. But our policy is to say that in Germany roast chickens will not fly into your open mouths. We have a difficult situation," Kinkel told around 20 students.

Having established that the class did in fact understand him, Kinkel then asked how many would remain and how many planned to move to Germany. Only the teacher wanted to stay.

Students on the course said their communities had died out and most of their friends and relatives were now doing well in Germany. Only a handful of families come back, they said.

"All my relatives are already there. They are happy," said Natalya Marinets, 38, a mother of three whose father was German.

"My husband and I both work. We cannot feed our children," said Natalya in broken German. Her family has been waiting for three years to emigrate.

Alexander Loos, 37, said his father had been deported to Kazakhstan and drafted into the Soviet Labor Army. Most Germans have left his rural town in northern Kazakhstan, he said.

He said he also planned to emigrate, adding it was "not a pleasant feeling" to hear Kinkel's call to stay in Kazakhstan.

"Even if I changed my name here, everyone would know that I am German. Now I know that I am not wanted in Germany, because I will be considered a Russian," Loos, an artist, said.

German officials privately admit that in a country where wages average around $100 a month, there is little that can be done to stem emigration.

"This migration will finish in a few years," one said. "When everyone who wants to leave has gone."



LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (May 28): Democratic Unionist Party leader Reverend Ian Paisley on election tour of Portrush Harbor East County Londonderry in the run-up to May 30 elections to choose delegates to all-party Northern Ireland peace talks that begin June 10.

(AFP PHOTO)

NATO to Take Lead in European Defense

BRUSSELS (Reuter) — NATO, written off by some as a Cold War relic a few years ago, intends to set the seal next week on its recent emergence as the central organization shaping Europe's future defense and security.

NATO foreign ministers meeting in Berlin on Monday will give broad approval to plans for more flexible military cooperation which would allow European nations a far greater role within the U.S.-led alliance.

"The Berlin meeting opens a new era for NATO. This is the start of a much wider reform without which enlargement and new types of missions would not be possible," said a senior alliance source.

The critical issue of how radical an overhaul of the alliance's command structure should be undertaken to create a separate European Security and Defense identity (ESDI) has been left for another day. NATO sources said.

But they said broad agreement to allow European nations to use NATO's largely U.S.-owned satellites and communications equipment to undertake missions in which the Americans do not wish to take part would be a landmark event from which more reform would flow.

"The agreement on a new concept of more flexible command structures that we are expected to reach in Berlin, is a milestone in the history of NATO," alliance Secretary-General Javier Solana wrote this week in the German daily die welt.

"The structural reform...takes us closer to the European Security and Defense Identity that we have been discussing for so long. NATO proves thereby that it supports a stronger European role in security policy in practical matters, too."

Agreement on the concept of the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF), as it is known in alliance military jargon, would open the way for NATO to handle a new type of post-Cold War mission, such as crisis-management or peacekeeping.

The breakthrough on CJTFs follows months of tortuous negotiations after the alliance, desperate for a solid role since the Cold War ended, agreed to look into the issue in January 1994.

The lessons of the West's failure to prevent war in former Yugoslavia sent the subject to the top of the agenda, but the final push came last December when Paris suddenly said it wanted full participation in all alliance structures.

France left NATO's military structure in 1966 in protest at perceived U.S.-domination, although it remained an alliance member and took part in political debates.

Successive French governments pushed for the creation of a separate European identity under a revamped Western European union — a body that fell dormant during the Cold War — and with a far greater European Union input.

President Jacques Chirac, drawing the lessons of former Yugoslavia and pushed by budgetary constraints, said France could play a full role in a future reformed alliance.



SRINAGAR, India (May 30): Paramilitary police take up positions outside the massive Jamia Masjid (Friday Mosque) after being pelted with stones by protest demonstrators in Srinagar. At least twelve people were injured after security troops opened fire on the procession staged against the general elections taking place in Kashmir.

(AFP PHOTO)

On Road to the Future, Bulgaria Is Heading Backward

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Somewhere on the road to joining prosperous Western Europe, Bulgaria has made a wrong turn. It's getting late to turn around.

People here hoped for a new, prosperous and democratic society when they joined their Soviet-bloc neighbors in 1989 in throwing out their aging communist rulers.

But it's farther from here in the southeast corner of Europe to the prosperous West than it is from Poland, the Czech Republic or Hungary. Six years down the road, the goal is not in sight. Prosperity is skin-deep. The new rich slalom through Sofia's potholed streets in luxury sedans, past bright shop windows and American fast-food restaurants. Their poorer compatriots stand in line for bread, or wait to pull their money out of one of many shaky banks.

The currency is plummeting, crime is rampant, people are dispirited. The government is afraid of offending Russia. The official economy is 90 percent state-owned, and under the management - many say mismanagement - of former communists.

Although hungary was already starting reforms under the communists and the Czechs have progressed under conservative premier Vaclav Klaus, the transition has been difficult everywhere.

The problem in Bulgaria, said political scientist Andrei Bundzhulov, is that former communists gutted it. That has happened nearly everywhere in the post-communist world, but in few places so brazenly.

Former communist officials moved out to form parallel structures where they have prospered.

"The state, its structures, its form of ownership, were gutted like a fish, and its functions attained just a decorative significance," Bundzhulov said.

Communist strongman Todor Zhivkov, who was ousted in 1989, also saddled Bulgaria with a large foreign debt.

The government has spent heavily from its currency reserves to support the currency, but it has plummeted from 70 to 126 to the dollar this year.

Without restructuring of the state-run economy, international lenders won't provide new loans to help make payments on the foreign debt. Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, Premier Zhan Videnov's socialist government has agreed to shut 64 state-owned businesses and eliminate 29,000 jobs.

Videnov's socialists came to power in December 1994, promising to break a deadlock between former communists and anti-communists in Parliament that prevented any government from following strong, consistent policies.

Videnov pledged to restructure the economy, end corruption, and fight street crime. But he finds himself struggling to keep unreconstructed communists and reform-minded socialists marching together in his party.

Scores of people have died in street shootouts. Reports of rapes, robberies and police seizures of weapons arsenals are rampant.

After a year in power, the socialists finally unveiled a privatization plan. It is running into public apathy and suspicion.

"The country is facing a collapse, and I doubt that the Socialist Party will be able to rescue it," said President Zhelyu Zhelev, a former anti-communist dissident.

Zhelev, like leaders of other formerly communist countries, wants Bulgaria to join NATO to make a break with the communist past and seek security in the West. The socialists don't want to offend Moscow, which opposes NATO expansion.

As the currency falls, retail prices have increased - sometimes, several times a day. Some stores advertise prices in dollars or German marks.

But only about 40 percent of eligible Bulgarians signed up for vouchers to invest in more than 1,000 state enterprises that are being privatized. Their more immediate concern is to protect savings.

That prompted Zhivko Dimitrov, a 54-year-old scientist, to line up with hundreds of other people to pull his money out of the bank. He wants to keep it at home in dollars.

Adding to the indignity, Bulgarians found themselves standing in line for bread because private companies sold too much of the wheat supply, leading to domestic shortages.

indignities even extend to the international lenders who can help bail out Bulgaria. At a recent business lunch, Anne McGuirk, leader of the IMF mission, had her handbag stolen.

"English Idioms and Their Farsi Equivalents" on Page 4 every Wednesday

